

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

Editorial and Executive Office: 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois

An Independent Christian Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Modernism, Worldliness and Formalism.

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This Beautiful Book FREE!



We have printed this beautiful book, *I Love Christmas*, to give our friends for every batch of three one-year subscriptions to *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* sent in at the rate of three subscriptions for \$5 in the United States. (\$6.50 in Canada and foreign countries.) Get a free copy for yourself by sending three one-year subscriptions. Or better yet, send thirty yearly subscriptions for \$50 and get ten of these lovely Christmas books to give among loved ones and friends at Christmastime.

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2. *The Shepherd's Christmas*
3. *Gifts of the Wise Men*
4. *No Room for Jesus*
5. *Immanuel—"God With Us"*
6. *The Virgin-Born Saviour*
7. *Wonderful Jesus!*

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But I should think that one of the happiest ways to honor Christ this Christmas would be to give *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* as Christmas gifts to many loved ones, neighbors, and friends. And then with the beautiful gift books you

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SEE INSIDE!

BOB JONES: "The Most Interesting Story I Ever Heard"

WALTER HANDFORD: "Thank God for the Bible Schools!"

JOHN R. RICE: "Mary, A Normal Wife and Mother After Jesus Was Born"

"With Billy Graham in Toronto"

Other interesting features!

HELL - BENT

By Evangelist Bill Rice, Associate Editor

"Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."—John 5:40.

The Lord Jesus plainly tells us that the one real reason for anyone being unsaved is that he is not willing to be saved. He is deliberately "Hell-bent." He simply WILL NOT be saved.

In revival work, one hears many excuses as to why various people are unsaved. One will say, "There are too many hypocrites in the church." Another, "I'm afraid I cannot hold out," or, "I don't feel like it," and so on. But the fact is, there is only one honest-to-goodness reason for anyone's being unsaved. That one reason is given in our text in the words of Jesus Christ who said, "Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." People are unsaved because they are not willing to come to Christ. They are deliberately unsaved, purposely away from Christ and Hell-bent!

I. Salvation Is for All

1. God Predestines No One to Be Damned

Some time ago, I spoke one Sunday morning in a Baptist church near Charleston, Illinois. The power of the Holy Spirit was felt in the entire service; it was a time of heart-searching, of repentance, of salvation. When the invitation was given to come forward publicly and claim Christ, seven came. It was a happy occasion, and we rejoiced over those who had been saved. But when the service was dismissed and I was about to step down from the platform, a

man with a Bible under his arm barred my way. "Look here," he said to me sternly, "don't you know you will be held accountable to God for the invitation you gave this morning? When you gave the invitation, you invited all the lost to come forward and be saved, and seven came. Now, what if some of them are predestined to go to Hell? Think how surprised they will be if they die and go to Hell when you have made them believe that they are now saved because they accepted Christ! You surely know that some people are predestined to be saved and some are predestined to be lost and cannot be saved no matter what they do!"

Now I know that there is a doctrine of predestination, but I



Evangelist Bill Rice

also know it does not contradict the clear teaching of the Bible that anyone may be saved who is willing to be saved. John 3:16, the best known verse in the Bible, plainly says "that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." In John 6:37, Jesus said, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." Hebrews 2:9 tells us that Jesus tasted death for "every man," and II Peter 3:9 tells us that God is "not willing that any should per-

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THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL

By Dr. DeWitt Talmage

"According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust."—I Tim. 1:11.

The greatest novelty of our time is the Gospel. It is so old that it is new. As potters and artists are now attempting to fashion pictures and cups and curious ware like those of nineteen hundred years ago, recently brought up from buried Pompeii, and such cups and pitchers and curious ware are universally admired, so anyone who can unshovel the real Gospel from the mountains of stuff under which it has been buried, will be able to present something that will attract the gaze, and admiration, and adoption of all the people. Amazing substitutes have been presented for what my text calls, "The Glorious Gospel."

There are many people in this and all other assemblages who have no more idea of what the Gospel really is than they have of what is contained in the fourteenth chapter of *Zend-Avesta*, the bible of the Hindu. There is no philosophy about it. It is plain, matter-of-Bible statement, and of childlike faith. The ablest theological professor is a Christian mother, who, out of her own experience, can tell the four-year-old how beautiful Christ was on earth, and how beautiful He now is in Heaven, and how dearly He loves little folks, and then she kneels down and puts one arm

around the boy, and with her somewhat faded cheek against the rosy cheek of the little one, consecrates him for time and eternity to Him who said, "Suffer little children to come unto me."

Scientists may tell us that natural light is the "propagation of undulations in an elastic medium, and thus set in vibratory motion by the action of luminous bodies"; but no one knows what Gospel Light is until his own blind eyes by the touch of the Divine Spirit have opened to see the noonday of pardon and peace. Scientists may tell us that natural sound is "the effect of an impression made on the organs of hearing by an impulse of the air, caused by a collision of bodies, or by other means"; but those only know what the Gospel sound is, who have heard the voice of Christ directly, saying, "Thy sins are forgiven thee; go in peace."

Regeneration, Not Reform

Some think they can, by law and exposure of crime, save the world, and from Portland, Maine, across to San Francisco, and back again to New Orleans and Savannah, many have gone into the detective business. Worldly reform, by all means; but unless it be also gospel reform, it will be dead failure. In New York, its chief work has been to give us a change of bosses. We had a Democratic boss, and now it is to be a Republican boss,

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Dr. T. DeWitt Talmage

Truth and Falsehood About the

BIBLE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

The High Church Heresy, Influenced by Roman Catholicism,
Leads to These Errors in Doctrine:

1. Mistakenly calling a denomination the church
2. Wrongly applying the promises meant for the whole body of Christ to local congregations
3. Incorrectly applying the Great Commission only to the local church instead of to individuals as given by Christ
4. Contrary to Scripture requiring all tithes to be given to local church "storehouse" instead of given by the prayerful individual as God leads

By Evangelist John R. Rice

The other day a noble pastor, a good soul winner, sound in the faith, with a large congregation, wrote me:

"I believe that our local churches have been given the responsibility of carrying out the Lord's Commission unto the uttermost parts of the earth. I believe that Jesus loved the church and died for it. Just on this basis, and there are many others, I believe that the Christian's tithe should be placed in his local church. I believe that the leadership of the church, under the Holy Spirit, should administer that tithe in the most effective way under God that they know how. It is my conviction that when appeals are made for funds that they be accepted on the basis that the tithe should go to the church

and if anything above that is available that it can be appropriately used for other works."

This good pastor's position is so typical of the position of many others who are influenced unconsciously by the Roman Catholic high church position that I feel a Bible study on the matter of the local churches, and the church which is His body who will be called out at the rapture, would be a blessing to many.

The Roman Catholic position is that salvation is through the church. Catholics teach, not that all Catholics ought to follow the Bible, but that the church itself

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You Corner

The Editor Answers
Young People's
Questions

Should Christian young men go to war?

It is true that the Bible says, "Love your enemies and pray for them that despitefully use you." Yet to love sinners does not mean that we will let their wickedness go unhindered. A parent who sincerely loves his child will when necessary punish that child for disobedience and sin. A citizen who loves saloon keepers will yet if possible put them out of business and stop their wicked and criminal business of making paupers, drunkards, and harlots. A policeman may be a good citizen and may love criminals. That would not prevent his stopping a robbery or burglary, arresting the criminal, carrying him to jail and testifying against him in court. Paul the apostle loved the sinning man in the church at Corinth who was guilty of terrible sin, yet he commanded that when the church was assembled together they should put that man away from them (I Cor. 5:4, 5). Surely it is settled, then, that to love people does not mean that you are to let them go on in any kind of wickedness.

I remember when I was a boy in school having a fight with another boy for running over a little fellow who couldn't help himself. I thought then and still think I was right. I hope I loved the big fellow, and know I ought to have, but I loved the little fellow, too, and I loved the right. And I stopped the injustice and bullying.

Another time I felt it was my duty to stop some boys who were tying a tin can to a dog's tail. I expected to have to fight, but since there were too many for me to lick, I tried talking first, and succeeded! I have always been glad I interfered, and especially glad that talking was all that was necessary! In other words, Christians must oppose sin even while they love the sinner.

But you say one of the Ten Commandments is "Thou shalt not kill" (Exod. 20:13). Actually, the command says, "Thou shalt not murder." That is different. Has a Christian the right to take the life of another? Well, if we mean does an individual have a right to take the law in his own hands and go out to execute vengeance according to his own whim or hate, certainly not. It was on this matter that God commanded, "Thou shalt not kill."

However, the Mosaic law which says, "Thou shalt not kill," sometimes excuses vigorous defense of self and property. For example, Exodus 22:2, 3 says:

"If a thief be found breaking up, and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him. If the sun be risen upon him, there shall be blood shed for him; for he should make full restitution; if he have nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft."

If a man be found breaking into a house in the night, then the house owner would be justified in hitting the thief or burglar with whatever came to hand, in self defense. However, if it is daytime and a thief be seen stealing something, then the man could be recognized and arrested, and in such a case one would not be justified in killing the man. But the thief should be made to restore what he stole or suffer for his sin. So you see that the command, "Thou shalt not kill," and the command to love your neighbor do not mean to let sin go unpunished.

It is a well recognized rule in law in all civilized countries that a man has a right to defend himself and his home and property. I am not talking now about vengeance, but about necessary defense.

I believe that New Testament Christians ought to be good citizens and help put down crime. However when persecuted as a Christian one should trust God for protection. The example of Paul, Silas, Peter, James, John, and of Jesus seems to show that a Christian should be willing to be beaten up rather than to kill anybody as a matter of defense, when suffering definitely as Christians. However, I think what I have said shows that when the Mosaic law commanded "Thou shalt not kill," it meant simply that individuals should not kill for individual reasons of vengeance or hate or any other selfish reason.

GOD DOES NOT FORBID GOVERNMENTS TO KILL

On the other hand, it is clearly taught throughout the Bible that God has put the responsibility on governments to punish sin and keep down crime, and expressly commands that the death penalty be given in many cases. God commanded the death penalty in Israel for cursing father or mother (Lev. 20:9); for adultery and kindred sins (Lev. 20:10-16); for murder (Lev. 24:17); for kidnapping (Exod. 21:16; Deut. 24:7). Repeatedly God commanded Moses that certain individuals should be put to death.

In the New Testament, too, in this age of grace, we have the plain teaching that "the powers that be are ordained of God" (Rom. 13:1). "Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God" (Rom. 13:2). And Romans 13:4 says that the ruler "beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil."

Thus the government is required of God to punish sin, even to kill people with the sword as punishment for sin, or to keep order in the government.

When a judge or jury condemns a criminal to the electric chair and the warden pulls the switch, they simply act as the ministers of God, doing His will. When a policeman arrests a criminal or finds it necessary to use a gun in breaking up a robbery or arresting a murderer, that policeman acts as the minister of God. God commands the government to act for Him in such matters.

A policeman my love a criminal, may pray for him, but nevertheless pleases God when he arrests him. The warden of a penitentiary may be kind to a condemned man, should pray for him, should try to get the condemned man to trust in Christ, but still the warden should proceed with the execution according to law—God's law as well as the law of society.

WARS, THEN, MUST SOMETIMES BE FOUGHT AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE TO ENFORCE THE RIGHT

Sometimes there are wars in which a Christian could not conscientiously engage. No Christian ought to go to war as a bandit to overrule and kill weak and defenseless people just as a matter of greed or gain or glory. Surely a professional soldier who loves to kill people and so hires himself out to kill first for one nation and then for another is to be despised as a murderer.

But on the other hand, when commanded by a good government, in a righteous cause, sometimes Christians should act with and for the powers that are ordained of God for justice.

Consider that David went to war and in the battle killed the giant Goliath. And remember that David said, "I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel" (I Sam. 17:45). Repeatedly God gave commands to His people to go to battle, and many, many times delivered them—Moses, Joshua, David, Asa, Hezekiah, and others.

War is a hateful and terrible business. Let no one encourage it; let all of us stay out of it if we can. But we must remember that God is against sin and has commanded rulers on the earth to put down crime and rebellion. They often sin against God, and yet "the powers that be are ordained of God."

It is certain that world-wide peace will never come until Jesus comes to reign. As long as we are in a world of criminals, crime must be punished, sometimes with death. There must be policemen, courts, jailors. Likewise, as long as we live in a warring world of greedy, wicked, sinful men, governments must have armies. Armies should be policemen, set to keep the peace and enforce the law. And some one has to be on the police force.

It is well to remember that some great Christian characters have been soldiers. Think of Stonewall Jackson, Robert E. Lee, and George Washington. Abraham Lincoln was once a soldier and later as president was commander-in-chief of the armies of the Union in the Civil War, and earnestly prayed and depended upon God for guidance. Certainly we cannot say that soldiers are never Christians.

Conscience, an enlightened Christian conscience, would never lead one to join with communists and other such unchristian elements as usually lead pacifist organizations. And no Christian, for the sake of conscience, would ever aid the enemy or work against his government to cause defeat or internal trouble.

Most of those who belong to peace organizations are shallow thinkers and are not true to the Bible in their attitude or thinking.

THE REAL SIN OF WAR IS HATE

At any rate, every Christian should have a heart full of love and compassion for all men and should never willingly, or unnecessarily, harm others. A man can be a murderer without even lifting a gun (I John 3:15). A noble man like Washington or Jackson might bear the sword as a matter of duty, might even feel that he was a minister of God in war, and yet would love his enemies and earnestly pray for their good. Hate is the terrible sin of war.

Let us pray for all men and earnestly beg God to bless our

D. L. Moody Tells How He Received a New Impulse

I want to tell you how I got the first impulse to work solely for the conversion of men. For a long time after my conversion I didn't accomplish anything. I hadn't got into my right place; that was it. I hadn't thought enough of this personal work. I'd get up in prayer meeting, and I'd pray with the others, but just to go up to a man and take hold of his coat and get him down on his knees, I hadn't got around to that.

It was in 1860 that the change came. In the Sunday School I had a pale, delicate young man as one of the teachers. I knew his burning piety, and assigned him to the worst class in school. They were all girls, and it was an awful class. They kept gadding around in the schoolroom, and were laughing and carrying on all the while. And this young man had better success than any one else. One Sunday he was absent, and I tried myself to teach the class, but couldn't do anything with them; they seemed farther off than ever from any concern about their souls. Well, the day after his absence, early Monday morning, the young man came into the store where I worked, and, tottering and bloodless, threw himself down on some boxes. "What's the matter?" I asked.

"I have been bleeding at the lungs and they have given me up to die," he said.

"But you are not afraid to die?" I questioned.

"No," said he, "I am not afraid to die, but I have got to stand before God and give an account of my stewardship, and not one of my Sabbath School scholars has been brought to Jesus. I have failed to bring one, and haven't any strength to do it now."

He was so weighed down that I got a carriage and took that dying man in it, and we called at the homes of every one of his scholars, and to each one he said, as best his faint voice would let him: "I have come to just ask you to come to the Saviour," and then he prayed as I never heard before. And for ten days he labored in that way, sometimes walking to the nearest houses. At the end of that ten days every one of that large class had yielded to the Saviour. Full well I remember the night before he went away (for the doctors said he must hurry to the South), how we held a true love-feast. It was the very gate of Heaven, that meeting. He prayed, and they prayed; he didn't ask them, he didn't think they could pray; and then we sang: "Blest be the tie that binds."

It was a beautiful night in June that he left on the Michigan Southern, and I was down to the train to help him off. And those girls everyone gathered there again all unknown to each other; and the depot seemed a second gate to Heaven, in the joyful, yet tearful, communion and farewells between these newly redeemed souls and him whose crown of rejoicing it will be that he led them to Jesus. At last the gong sounded, and supported on the platform, the dying man shook hands with each one, and whispered: "I will meet you yonder."—D. L. Moody.

Keep your word with your child as you would with your banker.—From "My Old Scrapbook."

government and keep us out of war.

Paul teaches us:

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplication, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men: For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."—I Tim. 2:1, 2.

"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme: Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evil-doers, and for the praise of them that do well."—I Peter 2:13, 14.

THE EDITOR'S Notes

by John R. Rice

Again we ask every reader, will you pray for this editor? There are more burdens than I can carry alone. I need more than human wisdom. I need the power of the Holy Spirit. Please pray for us. And I beg you particularly to pray for the subscription campaign.

"Happy Birthday to Me"

In Sunday School they sang, "Happy Birthday to You" to a little boy who enjoyed it greatly. And he joined in the singing and sang, "Happy Birthday to me."

Well, on December 11, this editor reaches his sixtieth birthday. Yesterday as I meditated on that, I remembered that the divine command is, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God" (I Cor. 10:31). So I decided I would celebrate my birthday to the glory of God! And as Paul said, by divine inspiration, "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you" (I Cor. 9:22, 23). So I felt that a good birthday celebration for the Gospel's sake would be a good thing.

And do you know how you can make me sing, "Happy Birthday to me"? BY THE BIGGEST FLOOD OF SUBSCRIPTIONS BETWEEN NOW AND DECEMBER 11 EVER SENT IN ONE MONTH'S TIME!

I do not want a penny for myself. My good wife has already promised me a new suit of clothes. My children will bring me little love gifts. But I want a birthday that will glorify the Lord Jesus. And so all who have been blessed by THE SWORD OF THE LORD, all who believe in the holy war I carry on against sin and modernism and unbelief, all who have been helped and stirred to win souls by my writings, my books, THE SWORD OF THE LORD, my revivals, I beg you, help me celebrate my birthday by sending THE SWORD OF THE LORD to others.

A \$60 gift for my birthday would pay for 36 subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD and you would get twelve copies of the Christmas book, *I Love Christmas* (seven Christmas messages) free to give to others as you like. Or \$100 would buy 60 subscriptions in the United States at three subscriptions for \$5.

Some of you can only send 3 one-year subscriptions for \$5 in the United States (or 3 for \$6.50 in Canada and foreign countries). Well, then do what you can for Jesus' sake and to the glory of God, and it will be a happy birthday to me. And I know that everyone who gets a subscription will be blessed.

Will you hurry? Give names and addresses clearly, and be sure to say where to send the free big beautiful Christmas book, *I Love Christmas*, which is to be sent with every 3 one-year subscriptions to THE SWORD.

Address your letter to the Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Illinois.

4% Interest on Long-Term Loans

The Sword of the Lord, without adequate capital, does a good deal of its work on borrowed capital. We are paying back many loans this fall, and we could accept a few more long-term loans. If you wish to lend \$500 or more for from one to five years, we will pay you four per cent per annum, payable semi-annually. A note will be mailed you, signed by the president and treasurer of the Sword of the Lord Foundation, upon receipt of your money. Every note paid on time and interest paid promptly, also. Write to Mr. Allan MacMullen, Treasurer, Sword of the Lord Foundation, Wheaton, Illinois.

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With Billy Graham in Toronto

By Editor John R. Rice

The four-week Billy Graham revival campaign in Toronto closed last Sunday afternoon, October 16. I had promised the Billy Graham team and promised myself a good visit during the Toronto campaign. With many, many duties, I almost missed it. But on Thursday morning of the last week, I took a plane at 7 a.m. in Chicago, flew to Toronto, and had Thursday, Friday, and Saturday with Billy Graham and the team in that great and blessed revival. Thank God for it!

The services of the campaign were held in the Coliseum of the Canadian National Exhibitions near the lakefront. Including the "television room," where they gathered who could not get into the main Coliseum and who took part in the services by means of closed circuit television, the seating capacity was some 15,000 or 16,000. I understand that after the first week, the great Coliseum was filled night after night.

The first night I was there it was jammed, with 3,000 more in the television room. On Friday night in a downpour of rain which had continued all afternoon, the Coliseum was packed to capacity a half hour before the announced opening time with people outside in the rain clamoring to get in. So the service started early.

Saturday night again the building was crowded to capacity and many, many turned away who could not get in.

On Sunday afternoon it was planned to hold the closing service in the open-air stadium which seats 30,000, with 20,000 additional chairs to be arranged on the field in front of the grandstand, a total of 50,000. And I have no doubt, if the weather permitted, that the seats were all filled. I left by plane on Saturday night, and do not have the final report.

God had worked in a wonderful way. On Thursday night there were 323 decisions; 76 per cent of these came for salvation, 24 per cent were rededications. On Friday night there were 469 professions of faith. Saturday night there were many; I estimated near 600. Already, before I left, there had been some 6,000 professions of faith, and I expected the total to reach past the 7,000 mark on Sunday afternoon.

I understand the campaign gathered momentum slowly. Toronto is a great city for churches. There is much good preaching there. In the nature of the case, the impact of the revival was not as immediate as in the London

and Glasgow campaigns. But I felt that could the campaign have extended another month, many times as many conversions would have taken place.

I was tremendously moved to hear the plain message and the simple invitation, and see the mighty moving of the Spirit as hundreds of people filed slowly forward to gather before the pulpit, claiming Christ as Saviour.

Many Courtesies, Sweet Fellowship With the Graham Team

Dr. Grady Wilson, associate evangelist, met me at the Malton Airport serving Toronto. A room was reserved for me in the King Edward Hotel. That day I had lunch with Dr. Graham. Others with us were Dr. J. D. Grey, pastor, First Baptist Church of New Orleans, chairman of the Billy Graham campaign in New Orleans; and Dr. John Wimbish, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, New York, with others of the Graham team. Fellowship was sweet. We had a good time.

Dr. Graham and his team were careful to take me to and from all the services. I sat on the platform each night. Dr. Graham asked me to speak briefly on Saturday night. On Friday night I dismissed the congregation. Dr. Paul Maddox (former head chaplain of the United States Armed Services in Europe following World War II) was wonderfully gracious and kind, as always. He looked after my comforts, presented me with a beautiful silk tie, rushed me to the airport after services Saturday night. It was a joy to have fellowship with Cliff Barrows, Beverly Shea, Jerry Beavan, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mickelsen, and others of the party.

Happy Incidents

It was only to be expected that I should see many friends in Toronto. Dr. Oswald J. Smith is abroad, but a number of pastors

came to see me, including the pastor of the Avenue Road Church where I have ministered in several campaigns. One fine gentleman met me and told me happily, "I was converted through THE SWORD OF THE LORD. My wife was saved also. We live in Montreal, but I am now in Toronto attending the Baptist seminary, training for the ministry!"

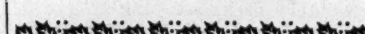
A woman brought along a picture of her little boy three years old, named for Billy Graham, for Billy Graham to autograph. Then she turned to me and between smiles and tears said, "Do you remember the girl who came to you weeping in the Avenue Road Church and asked your counsel? This young wife and mother had two children. The doctors had forbidden her to have any other children, said she would probably die. She wanted a baby, felt that she ought not to limit God. Do you remember? You told her to trust the Lord and do right, and God would look after her. Well, now look at this!" And she pulled from under her coat the picture of the three-year-old boy. "See what God has given me! And I am well and I named the boy Billy Graham!"

I rejoiced with her and may this little Billy Graham be like Samuel or like John the Baptist, or like Isaac, who were given in answer to prayer and faith!

I took more than a usual interest in the Toronto campaign. Years ago I put on a conference on revival and soul winning in famous Massey Hall, Toronto. Dr. Bob Jones, Dr. Hyman Appelman, and others helped me in that great conference, and many were blessed. Day-time services were held in Cook Presbyterian Church. A group of pastors asked me to remain for a dinner on Monday night, and to speak to the general public. At that dinner, 25 pastors and some laymen, as I recall, asked me to come to Toronto for



See Advertisements



a city-wide campaign. Because of dissension among the churches, the campaign did not materialize, but I have never forgotten two things that happened.

A kindly-faced minister, in the formal clerical collar and dress of the Anglican or United Church clergy, called me to one side and said, "Dr. Rice, you must come. God will send a revival to Toronto. And it will come in answer to 25 years of most earnest prayer. You must come!"

As I went out the door, a good woman took my arm and handed me a roll of paper. She said, "Here, I want to give this to you. It is a map of Toronto."

I thanked her, of course, but she said, "But it is not an ordinary map of Toronto. Open it and you will see."

I opened it and saw check marks all over the map and she told me, "I have spent two winters, evening after evening, praying up and down every street in Toronto. Not a city square but I have prayed for God's blessings on it. Now in two years, my labor of prayer for Toronto has covered the city. Now it is time for God to send a revival!"

So although I did not go for the city-wide campaign in Toronto, I feel that God is hearing the prayers of people who have cried to Him long.

Dr. Billy Graham said to me about this, "Yes, Dr. Rice, and people like that woman are the ones to whom the Saviour will say, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.' Some of the rest of us will have to say as Jesus foretold in John 4 that 'Other men labored, and [we] are entered into their labors'" (John 4: 38).

Dr. Billy Graham needs your

Mary a Normal Wife and Mother After Jesus Was Born

By Editor John R. Rice

"Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS"—Matt. 1:24, 25.

Please note again, "Then Joseph . . . took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son." This Scripture not only indicates that Mary was a virgin when Jesus was conceived, and a virgin when Jesus was born, but it also indicates that after the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary had the normal relations of husband and wife. Since never a word of Scripture is wasted, it is fair to assume that if Joseph "knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son," he did know her after she had brought forth her firstborn son. The Catholic dogma that Mary is a perpetual virgin and was never a wife is not taught in the Bible.

Again, the Scripture names Jesus as her "firstborn son." Jesus is not called simply Mary's son, and certainly not called her only son, but her "firstborn son." The language infers that there were other sons and daughters born to Mary and Joseph after the birth of Jesus. Matthew 13:55, 56 says, "Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us?" The brothers of Jesus are mentioned many times, for example in Matthew 12:46, 47; John 7:3-5. In Galatians 1:19 Paul said, "But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother."

Always in the Bible these brothers of Jesus are called brothers or brethren, and the Bible believer should take these terms at face value.

But the strongest proof that Mary had other children is Psalm 69:8, "I am become a stranger to my brethren and an alien unto my mother's children." John 2:17 quotes the preceding verse as referring to Jesus, as verse 21 clearly does.

The Catholic idea that these men were cousins of Jesus, and that Mary was a perpetual virgin, never having had other children, is not borne out by the Scriptures.

In Luke 1:36 the angel of God told Mary, "And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth . . ." So there is a Greek word for cousin, but it was never used as regarding the brothers of the Lord Jesus.

Besides, no good spiritual and doctrinal end is served by teaching that Mary was born without sin, lived without marriage, was carried bodily to Heaven, is "Queen of Heaven," etc. All that is calculated to take glory from Jesus Christ and put it on Mary. Joseph 'knew not Mary till she brought forth her firstborn son.' After that, they lived normally as godly Christian husband and wife, had other children some of whom, at least, are named in the Bible. Mary was only human, not deity incarnate as was Jesus. She is no mediator, no intercessor for man-

prayers as he goes to Cambridge and Oxford Universities in England. In January he will go on a tour to India, Japan, Formosa. Next year he has great campaigns promised for Richmond, Virginia; Louisville, Kentucky; and Oklahoma City. Let us thank God for raising up this evangelist, and let us hold him up to God in earnest prayer along with the other noble men who are laying their lives out in soul winning.

I counted it a great refreshing to see the great crowds, to see the souls saved, to have fellowship with these noble people.

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kind. To pray to Mary is folly; to worship her is idolatry.

The angel here was probably the same Angel Gabriel that appeared to Mary (Luke 1:26-33). The same explanation is made about the child conceived in her womb, that it was done by the Holy Ghost without a human father.

May I suggest certain themes for meditation. (1) The birth of Jesus from the body of a human mother, nursed at her breast, forever glorifies motherhood and childbearing. (2) The name Jesus means deliverer, saviour just as does the Old Testament name, Joshua. Joshua, in the New Testament, is called Jesus (Acts 7:45). (3) Consider how Joshua, with the same name, was a type of Christ. Joshua followed Moses; so Christ and grace follow the law; the New Testament follows the Old Testament. Joshua led the children of Israel into the Promised Land out of the wilderness; so Christ will lead us into His kingdom and victory. As Joshua delivered the children of Israel from all their enemies, so Christ saves us from sin and will eventually deliver His saints from all the power of the Evil One. (4) Consider the blessed ministry of angels in revealing the will of God in connection with the Bible.

In verses 22 and 23 the reference is to Isaiah 7:14. Here it was foretold hundreds of years before that the Saviour should be born of a virgin.

(The above explanation of Matthew 1:24, 25 is only two pages from the big 504-page commentary on the Gospel according to Matthew, THE KING OF THE JEWS, by Dr. Rice. Note the careful explanation, the many Scriptures, the simplicity. The Bible will become very real and precious and its doctrines clearly understood by those who prayerfully use and study this commentary. Price: \$3.95. Buy from your bookstore, or add 29c for postage and handling and order from The Sword of the Lord Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois.)

"They Say—"

"Well, they say . . ." How often we hear that expression . . . and usually how unreliable are the statements that follow such a remark. In speaking of the world's most famous evangelist, Billy Graham, we quite frequently note such phrases as "I heard . . .", "I read somewhere that . . .", "Can you tell me if . . .", "Is it true that . . .?" "Well, they say . . ."

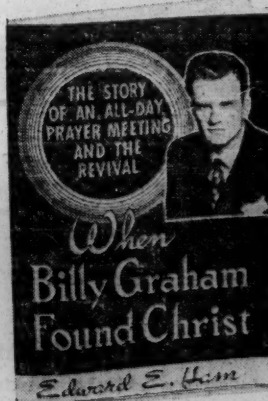
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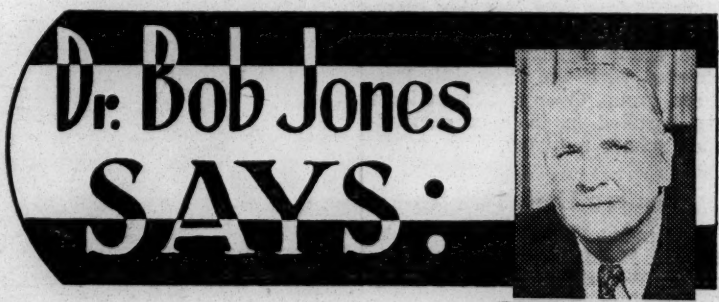
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Rev. Edward E. Ham

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I quote from a letter that I have just received from a young man who attended Bob Jones University just one year: "Dr. Bob, I never thought I would be writing you a letter like this. Where I work I have met a young man who is studying for the ministry at a certain college. After our first conversation, I was left dazed and angry as I listened to this young man deny everything I believe and have been taught as true. He denied the inspiration of the Bible, the Genesis account of creation, the virgin birth, and the Trinity. He wants a big church and a big salary. He called my faith Sunday School religion. I tried to deal with him spiritually but found it impossible. His mind was set on tearing apart my faith in Christ. If I had met this man before attending Bob Jones University, I could not have stood the cunningness of this confessed modernist. I really felt as though I was facing Satan himself."

Now, you folks who believe in the old-time religion and the absolute authority of the Bible and who believe in orthodoxy can afford to co-operate with Bob Jones University financially and every

other way. Recently, I conducted a meeting in South Georgia, and there are ten preacher boys (eight of them have wives they met while students in Bob Jones University) who are standing without compromise for the Gospel. They are winning souls. They are doing a remarkable work for God. Our graduates have gone out from Bob Jones University campus into the business world, the educational world, and into the ministry and to the foreign mission fields; and the overwhelming majority of them are true and faithful; and practically all of them are soul winners. Many of you who read this believe in that sort of thing. Please keep praying for us; and please, if the Lord leads you, invest some of the money He has given you in the work we are doing. We have an expansion program here, and we need money for missions and for the Student Help Fund. Please help us; but above everything else, please pray for us. Thank you and God bless you.

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(Advertisement)

Thank God for the Bible Schools!

By Evangelist Walt Handford, Vice-President
Sword of the Lord Foundation

One of the most important yet little appreciated works for the Lord being carried on today is the Bible School ministry. The Christian liberal arts colleges and seminaries are doing a much-needed piece of work in Christian education. God bless them! But the Bible Institutes throughout our land have a unique ministry. Their special work is an intensive instruction program in the contents of the Bible itself. They are training a vast army of pastors, missionaries, Sunday School teachers, and Christian workers which our churches desperately need today.

Christians need to be grounded in the Scripture, both to establish themselves in the faith and also in order to lead others to Christ. The Seventh Day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Christian Science groups are recruiting their followers in large numbers from the ranks of Christians who simply don't know their Bibles well enough to see the errors of these heresies. Tremendous correspondence teaching and study groups are being used by these cults to indoctrinate their converts into their teachings. Everywhere I go in revival work I find some poor, deluded person who has never been grounded in the Word, now completely messed up in false teachings of these groups.

The Bible Schools are important agencies to help instruct young Christians in the fundamental doctrines and also to train Christian workers. In a recent revival meeting in Michigan, a fine Christian fellow 28 years old surrendered to the Lord's call to preach, and two days later was enrolled in the evening school program of Detroit Bible Institute. In that same community were a number of other Christians going 50 miles every Thursday for similar Bible teaching. The pastor of the church in which I held the meeting, an earnest soul winner, was unable to go to Bible school because of family responsibilities. But evening classes at the Bible Institute were training him while he carried on his ministry.

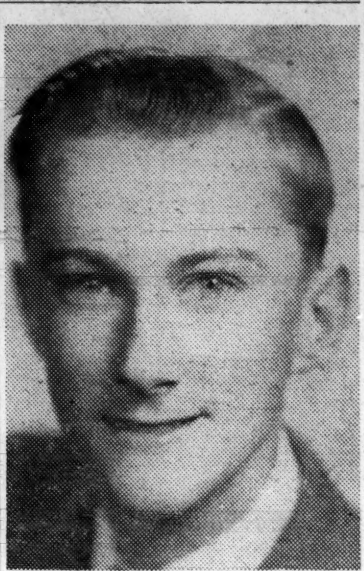
Then the Bible Schools have many students who take a year or two of basic Bible training before going to secular schools for business or professional training. This is strongly advisable for young people who must go on and expose themselves to the godless philosophies and instructions in many state universities and, alas, in many denominational schools. Of course not every Christian who feels a real need of more intensive Bible instruction lives near a good Bible Institute nor could take time out to attend if a good school were nearby. For these the correspondence courses offered by some of the Bible Schools listed at the end of this article will be a tremendous help. Housewives and business men, farmers and others can learn the Bible at their own rate of progress in this way.

Then, many preachers, Sunday School teachers, and Christian workers who have had some training can be greatly helped by an occasional "refresher course" in basic Bible doctrines taught by correspondence. Or a special course of instruction in a particular book of the Bible or subject, such as the tabernacle, can form the basis for a series of lessons to be taught to others. The workman who takes time to sharpen his tools saves time in the long run and does a better job.

Check over the following list of Bible Schools and consider if one of them can help you, your son or daughter, or friend or neighbor to do a better job for the Lord. There are other good schools, but these are some to which you may write for a catalog and further information.

Northeastern United States

Philadelphia Bible Institute, 1800 Arch Street, Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania. Day and evening classes and also correspondence courses are offered. This school was founded in 1951 by a merger of the Bible Institute of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia School of the Bible. It is one of



Rev. Walter Handford

the larger independent Bible Schools in America today. The president is Dr. William A. Mierot.

Washington Bible Institute, 1441 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W., Washington 5, D. C. This independent Bible school was formed in 1938 as the result of a merger then concluded between the American Home Bible Institute and the Cottage Bible Institute, both schools having been previously located in Washington, D. C. The Washington Bible Institute conducts a day school, an evening school, extension classes, and also a correspondence division. The day school offers both a three-year program leading to a diploma and a four-year program leading to the bachelor of arts in biblical education degree. Dr. George A. Miles is president.

Elohim Bible Institute, Main Street and Beechwood Avenue, Castile, New York. This school is one of the smaller schools founded in 1942 by Rev. and Mrs. Donald M. Perkins. The general plan of the school is a work, study arrangement. Classes are conducted on Monday evenings, Tuesday evenings, and Saturday mornings.

Buffalo Bible Institute, 827 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo 9, New York. This school was formed in 1938 and conducts a three-year course in theology, missionary training, Christian education, and Bible-music. Both day and evening school classes are available. Dr. Everett S. Graffam is president.

Practical Bible Training School, Bible School Park, Broome County, New York. This independent Bible school was founded in 1902 by Dr. John A. Davis. Dr. Gordon C. Davis is now president and the school offers a three-year course in divinity, theology, a pastor's course, and missionary and Christian education training.

The Missionary Training Institute, Nyack-on-Hudson, New York, is the eastern Bible school of the Christian Missionary and Alliance denomination. Eight correspondence courses are offered in addition to the regular day school courses. Dr. Thomas Moseley is president.

Northeastern Bible Institute, 28 Oak Lane, Essex Fells, New Jersey. Dr. Charles W. Anderson is president of this fine Bible school.

Central United States

Cornis Hill Bible College, 2930 West Market Street, Akron 13, Ohio. This school was formerly the Akron Bible Institute and offers both a four-year course and a three-year Bible course. Dr. Raymond E. Gingrich is president.

Grand Rapids Baptist Theological Seminary and Bible Institute, 811 Wealthy Street, S. E., Grand Rapids 6, Michigan. Founded in 1941 as an evening school, this school conducts both evening and day classes and is endorsed by the General Association of Regular Baptist churches. Dr. J. Edward Hakes is president. The school offers a five-year theological course as well as a three-year general Bible course, mission course, music or Christian education course.

Lansing Bible College, 114 Moores River Drive, Lansing 10, Michigan. This is one of the smaller Bible schools and has been operating now for 13 years. It offers a one-year basic Bible training course, a three-year general Bible course, pastor, missionary and Christian education courses, and a missionary nurses course. Mr. Calvin Thorpe is president.

Midwestern Baptist Seminary, Pontiac, Michigan. Dr. Tom Malone is president of this Baptist Seminary and Bible Institute. Both a bachelor of Christian education degree and a two-year Bible school certificate are available.

Moody Bible Institute, 820 N. LaSalle Street, Chicago 10, Illinois. This Institute was founded in 1886 by Dwight L. Moody, great American evangelist. It is set up on a three-year schedule offering a general Bible course, a pastor's course, a missionary course, a sacred music course, a Christian education course, a Jewish missions course, and a missionary technical course. Dr. William Culbertson is president of this long-established, independent, fundamental Bible Institute which conducts day school, evening school, and correspondence courses.

Grace Bible Institute, 1515 South 10th Street, Omaha 8, Nebraska. Grace Bible Institute was opened in 1943. It was founded by Mennonites but is training Christian workers in many denominations. Both a three-year and a four-year Bible course are offered. In addition a missionary course, a Christian education course, a theology course, a psychology and philosophy course, and a sacred music course are offered. A pastor's course and a nurse's training course are also available in a five-year course of study. Joseph W. Schmidt is interim president.

Omaha Baptist Bible Institute, 1052 Park Avenue, Omaha 5, Nebraska. This school is affiliated with the General Association of Regular Baptists and was organized in 1921. A three-year Bible course with missionary emphasis, a three-year music course, and a four-year Bible course for pastors are offered. J. L. Patten is president.

Southern United States

Toccoa Falls Institute, Toccoa Falls, Georgia. This school was founded in 1911 by Dr. and Mrs. R. A. Forrest. Both a three-year Bible and missions course are offered, and a four-year bachelor of arts in biblical education course.

Atlanta Bible Institute, 759 West Peachtree Street N. E., Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Eugene Q. McGee is president of this school which was founded in 1931. A four-year Bible literature and theology course is offered together with a four-year youth leadership course, and a four-year religious education course.

The Dallas Bible Institute, 3608 Swiss Avenue, Dallas 4, Texas, was founded in 1940 as a non-denominational school. Dr. Martin O. Massinger is president. A three-year Bible course with a special one-year Bible course is offered. Both day and evening classes are available.

Rio Grande Bible Institute, P. O. Box 840, Edinburg, Texas. This Bible school with special missionary emphasis has Rev. M. C. Ehler as president. A three-year Spanish Bible course, a two-year missionary training course, and a one-year missionary training course are offered.

Western United States

Simpson Bible College, 801 Silver Avenue, San Francisco, California. Sponsored by the Christian Missionary Alliance group, this school has special missionary emphasis and offers a five-year theology course, a four-year missions course, a four-year Christian education course, a four-year sacred music course, a four-year Bible music course, and a three-year Bible school diploma course. Paul S. Allen is president. This school was formerly located in Seattle, Washington, and has just this year moved to San Francisco.

The Bible Institute of Los Angeles, 558 South Hope Street, Los Angeles 17, California. This school was begun in 1908 and Dr. Reuben A. Torrey was the first dean of the school. At the present time Dr. S. H. Sutherland is president of this inter-denominational, fundamental Bible training school. In addition to a regular Bible Institute course, a full college course, a theological seminary course, and a missionary medicine course are offered. This school also has a fine correspondence school with a number of good courses offered by correspondence.

Multnomah School of the Bible, 8435 N. E. Glisan Street, Portland 16, Oregon. Dr. Willard M. Aldrich is president of this fine well-established Bible school serving the entire Pacific northwest. Day and evening classes are available.

Midwestern United States

Kansas City Bible College, P. O. Box 7035, Kansas City 13, Missouri. This is an interdenominational school now in its 23rd year with four-year college courses plus night school available. Dr. Clifford Lewis is president.

St. Paul Bible Institute, Englewood at Hamline, St. Paul, Minnesota. This is the midwestern regional Bible school for the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church. It was organized in 1916 and offers a three-year Bible school course and four-year degree courses. Courses are offered in the fields of Bible and theology, missions, Christian education, and music. They also offer a special two-year Christian workers course in Bible and Christian training. Dr. George D. Strohm is president.

Detroit Bible Institute, 17334 Meyers Road, Detroit 35, Michigan. This fine Bible school has both day and evening classes and Dr. Roy L. Aldrich is president.

Emmaus Bible Institute, 156 N. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois. This school has day classes as well as a wide correspondence school ministry and is associated with the Plymouth Brethren group. Over 50,000 students are enrolled in their correspondence school ministry.

Eastern United States

Lancaster School of the Bible, 128-130 N. Mulberry Street, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Mr. William J. Randolph is president.

Providence-Barrington Bible College, 100 State Street, Providence 8, Rhode Island. This independent fundamental school was founded in 1900 and offers a three-year Bible Course and a four-year liberal arts course. In addition to the regular day school program and the evening school and correspondence school, they offer courses to the general public. Dr. Howard W. Ferrin is president.

Canadian Schools

Prairie Bible Institute, Three Hills, Alberta, Canada. L. E. Maxwell is the principal of this unique Bible Institute with special missionary emphasis. Both a four-year and a three-year course are offered. Classes are conducted only on a day school basis.

London Bible Institute, 518 Queens Avenue, London, Ontario, Canada. In addition to a theological seminary division, this Bible Institute presents a pastor's course, a missionary course, a Christian education course, and a Christian education with music major course of instruction. Mr. Alden A. Gannett is president.

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WITH THE Evangelists

REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS

By the Editor

Dedication services of the enlarged \$37,000 Good News Baptist Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, were held September 25-27. Rev. S. H. Houbolt, pastor, writes that immediately following the dedication service **EVANGELIST J. OSCAR WELLS** had services Wednesday through Wednesday, September 28-October 5. A record attendance of 402 was recorded in Bible School, a record attendance of 327 in church service, with a stirring of God's people, an all-night prayer meeting. A total of 9 trusted Christ as Saviour, 13 came forward for baptism, 2 for membership, and there were several other rededications.

EVANGELIST H. B. BARNETT of Waldron, Arkansas, wrote October 10 that he was in his third week at Harts Prairie Baptist Church near Franklin, Illinois. "Twelve saved so far (10 adults), one man 85 years old," he writes. In his last meeting at New Hope Baptist Church near Waverly, Illinois, in September, there were 15 conversions; 7 of these baptized October 9. A. K. Pauley of Silverton, Oregon, is helping the evangelist.

The 15th semi-annual conference of the Revival Prayer Fellowship of Southern California, was held October 3-5 at the Pacific Palisades Conference Grounds. The Fellowship has a threefold emphasis: revival, evangelism, and missions. Many pastors, evangelists, and missionaries, besides lay leaders, attended. Speakers this year included Dr. Wilbur Smith, Evangelist Pete Riggs, Corrie Ten Boom of Holland, Rev. Ebenezer Vine of the Regions Beyond Missionary Union, and Dr. Bob Pierce, recently returned from the Orient. Among the mission fields represented were Borneo, Australia, Europe, Japan, Palestine, New Guinea, and the Navajo Indians. The report states: "The Revival Prayer Fellowship Incorporated expects to expand and form many similar conferences and groups of pastors to meet regularly in prayer fellowship for revival . . ."

Tabernacle Hymns Number Five

A Review by the Editor

For more than a generation, the Tabernacle Publishing Company has been putting out great Christian hymnbooks. Only a few times in the last thirty-five years that I have been acquainted with *Tabernacle Hymns Numbers Two, Three, and Four*, have other hymnbooks appeared which justified comparison with these tremendous songbooks. Now *Tabernacle Hymns Number Five* appears, and we are glad to recommend it. The big book has 403 numbered songs and hymns, besides 7 on the end sheets. It has 25 Scripture selections for responsive readings or unison readings. Here are not only the great hymns of the church but the great gospel songs, invitation songs, solos, choir pieces, and choruses. There are a good many duets. Both musical and literary quality are high. The book is suitable for an evangelistic church. If you are pastor or song leader of a church which will soon be buying new hymnbooks, you should write Tabernacle Publishing Company, Corner of Lake Street and Waller Avenue, Chicago 44, Illinois, for a sample copy. Write on a church letterhead, give your position, and say that your church will soon be buying songbooks. We hope that many will examine this great hymnbook. Please say that Dr. Rice, in *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*, asked you to write.

Some pastors and other Christian leaders who have attended these conferences testify to a transformed ministry.

Rev. Don Gagnon of Emery Park Baptist Church, Tucson, Arizona, writes: "Had a very good meeting with **EVANGELIST EDDIE WAGNER** September 29-October 2. God used him to get 35 to trust Christ for salvation, numerous rededications . . . We feel God has a definite ministry in this servant."

REV. EARL "TED" WALL of Box 127, Winfield, West Virginia, has just completed a meeting (Oct. 9) with the Morgantown Baptist Church, Morgantown, Indiana, where Rev. Lewis V. Poore is pastor. There were 33 who trusted Christ as Saviour during the 13-day campaign. Wall's revival schedule for the rest of this year includes meetings at Beckley, Lookout and Clarksburg, West Virginia. He has some open dates after the first of the year.

Sword of the Lord **EVANGELIST WALT HANDFORD** just conducted a splendid revival with the Sparlingville Baptist Church of Sparlingville, Michigan. Jack Oliver is pastor of this fine work. In many ways this was a remarkable revival campaign. In the first place, the people of the church really were revived. The pastor had previously felt it necessary for him to work in a butcher shop five days a week, but during the campaign he and his wife surrendered themselves for full-time service and the church folks were delighted and will support him when he finishes his work at the end of October. On an invitation for surrender to a lifetime of soul winning, about 20 from this little church came forward. This is a high percentage. A 28-year-old man surrendered to preach and started evening school at Detroit Bible Institute two nights later. There were some remarkable rededications by folks who were backslidden. There were 12 straight-out conversions. The church wants Evangelist Handford back and he plans to go back in 1958.

Sword of the Lord **EVANGELIST ROBERT L. SUMNER** just conducted a revival campaign with the Emmanuel Baptist Church of Toledo, Ohio. The Rev. R. L. Matthews is pastor of this good church. As a result of this revival 27 will be joining the church for conversion, baptism, statement, and letter.

Sword of the Lord **EVANGELIST OSCAR WELLS** has just conducted revival campaigns with the Beechwood Baptist Church of Birmingham, Alabama, and the First Baptist Church of Cordova, Alabama. Both of these churches are very small and it was felt that Evangelist Wells might set up sound, workable visitation and soul-winning program for the churches. There were 15 straight-out conversions, 62 rededications, and 12 family altars established.

(Evangelist Bill Rice, associate editor, is at present in a revival campaign with the Boulevard Heights Baptist Church of Washington, D. C. Sword evangelists Joe Rice, Ken Chapman, Oscar Wells, and Bob Sumner have previously conducted campaigns in this church and both pastor and people speak of each of these men in glowing terms. Pastors interested in securing the services of any Sword evangelist may write directly to them or to Evangelist Bill Rice, 214 West Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois, for dates and information.)

EVANGELIST ERNIE HABECKER has joined the Sword Staff of Evangelists and in a future issue, we will introduce him fully to our readers. He is a young man whose ministry has been wonderfully blessed of God and

The Most Interesting Story I Ever Heard

By Bob Jones, Sr., D.D., LL.D.

The most interesting story I ever heard was told me years ago by a man over eighty years of age. We were sitting together on a projecting rock of a mountainside in Arkansas. Here is the story:

"I was down in this country during the Civil War. Across on the other side yonder there were hundreds of tents where our soldiers were encamped. Measles broke out and many of our brave lads died. The epidemic got so bad we stretched some tents farther down the valley and moved all the measles patients into these tents. This, of course, was done to protect as far as possible the health of the well soldiers. I was wardmaster in charge of the tents where the measles patients were located.

"One night while I was on the ward I passed a bunk where there was a very sick soldier lad not more than seventeen years of age. The boy looked at me with a pathetic expression and said, 'Wardmaster, I believe I am going to die. I am not a Christian. My mother isn't a Christian. My father isn't a Christian. I never had any Christian training. I never did attend church. I did go with a boy friend to Sunday School just once. A woman taught the Sunday School class. She seemed to be such a good woman. She read us something out of the Bible about a man—I think his name was Nicodemus. Any way, it was about a man who went to see Jesus one night. Jesus told this man he must be born again. The teacher said all people must be born again in order to go to Heaven when they die. I have never been born again and I don't want to die like this. Won't you please get the chaplain so he can tell me how to be born again?'"

The old man hesitated for a moment. "You know, in those days I was an agnostic—at least that is what I called myself. As a matter of fact, I wasn't anything but an old sinner. So I told the boy, 'You don't need a chaplain. Just be quiet now. Don't worry, you'll be all right.' I went on around the ward and in about an hour I came back to the boy's bed. He looked at me out of such sad, staring eyes as he said, 'Wardmaster, if you won't get me the chaplain, please get me the doctor. I am choking to death.' 'All right, my son, I'll get you the doctor,' I said. So I went off and found the doctor and he came and mopped out the throat of the lad so he could breathe just a little easier. I knew the boy was going to die. I had seen many other cases just like his. The boy was so sweet he literally climbed into my heart. He thanked me for my kindness. He thanked the doctor for being so good to him. The doctor and I went away from the bed.

"In about an hour I came back expecting to find the boy dead but he was still struggling. He looked up out of his eyes of death and said, 'There is no use, Wardmaster. I have got to die and I haven't been born again. Whether you believe in it or not, won't you find the chaplain and let him tell me how to be born a-

we confidently expect his ministry to increase in power and scope. In a recent letter to Evangelist Bill Rice he writes, "On Sunday afternoon we concluded our series of meetings in the Nantmeal area. The church was filled to capacity. There were 29 decisions for the series, 21 first-time decisions and 8 for rededication."

"Last Sunday evening we opened a two-week series with the Bacton Chapel near Malvern, Pennsylvania. The first night crowds overflowed the church but many problems face a successful meeting. We certainly need much prayer on behalf of this revival."

Pastors wishing additional information or dates about Evangelist Ernie Habecker may write to him in care of this paper or to Evangelist Bill Rice, Director, 214 West Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois.



Dr. Bob Jones

gain?" I looked at him for a moment and thought about how helpless he was in the grip of death. So I said, 'All right, my son. I will get you the chaplain.'

"I walked away a few paces and turned and went back to the boy's bedside. I said, 'My boy, I am not going to get you the chaplain. I am going to tell you what to do myself. Now, understand, I am an agnostic. I don't know whether there is any God. I don't know whether there is any Heaven. I don't know whether there is any Hell. I don't know anything. Yes, I do. I know one thing. I know my mother was a good woman. I know if there is a God my mother knew Him. If there is a Heaven I know she is there. So, I will tell you what my mother told me. You can try it and see if it works. Now, I am going to teach you a verse of Scripture. The verse is John 3:16. 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' My mother said that I cannot save myself, but if I will believe in Jesus He will save me."

"I asked the boy to say the verse with me. I started and he followed with a weak and trembling voice; 'For God so loved the world, 'For God so loved the world; 'That he gave his only begotten Son; 'That he gave his only begotten Son; 'That whosoever believeth in him; 'That whosoever believeth in him; 'should not perish; 'should not perish; 'but have everlasting life; 'but have everlasting life.' Now, my boy, my mother said if a person

will trust Jesus he will not perish but have everlasting life."

"I referred the lad to another verse my mother taught me, but he closed his eyes, stretched his hands across his breast and in a whisper he quoted slowly, repeating some of the words several times, 'For God so loved the world . . . he gave his only begotten Son . . . that whosoever, whosoever . . . whosoever believeth, believeth in him, believeth in him . . . Then he stopped and said with a clear voice, 'Praise God, Wardmaster, it works. I believe in Him! I shall not perish! I have everlasting life! I have been born again! Wardmaster, your mother was right. Why don't you try it? Do what your mother said. It works, Wardmaster. This thing works! Wardmaster, before I go I want to ask you to do something for me. Take a kiss to my mother and tell her what you told me, and tell her that her dying son said, 'It works.' I leaned over and kissed him on the mouth and then as he drew his last breath he said, 'It works.'"

The old man, wiping tears out of his eyes and tears out of the wrinkles of his face, said, "The lad was right. It does work. Whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but has now everlasting life. It works. I know it works!"

(From the book, *THE SWORD BOOK OF TREASURES*, Sword of the Lord Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois.)

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America's Foremost Christian Magazine!

By Viola Walden
Secretary to the Editor

There is no other Christian magazine in print in my opinion, that compares with THE SWORD OF THE LORD! It is foremost in evangelistic fervor! It is foremost in winning the lost to Christ! It is foremost in promoting soul-winning enthusiasm among Christians! It is foremost in reporting the revival pulse of cities in America and abroad! It is foremost in strengthening the ministries of evangelists, pastors, missionaries and Bible teachers around the world! It is foremost in contending sensibly and scripturally for the faith of our fathers against the assaults of infidels within and without the church! It is foremost in Bible exposition! It is foremost in republishing the great sermons by the great preachers of past generations for those living in this generation! It is foremost in fighting sin and worldliness in the lives of Christians! It is foremost in presenting a biblical basis for preserving the republican form of government instituted by our founding fathers! It is foremost in every way!

We are not alone in our opinion, by any means, as the hundreds of letters which come to our office continually indicate. Again this week let me give you a sampling from our mailbag. From the state of Colorado comes a letter from a young preacher's wife:

"Just a few lines to tell you how we enjoy reading your paper THE SWORD OF THE LORD. It has proved many times its weight in gold to us. You see, my husband is the pastor of a small Baptist Church and many times he has received help on his sermons from your messages. Truly it has claimed to be one of the best of the some 20-odd gospel papers we receive. He can hardly wait until next week's issue gets here.

"We have gone through many hard trials since we came here and it has been pretty rough since this is our first church. We are praising God, however, for the victories He has given us—when it seemed almost hopeless He has led us through.

"... May the Lord continue to bless you and may your paper soon be in the home of every Christian."

Isn't that a wonderful thought? THE SWORD OF THE LORD in the home of every one who has been born again! Oh, the tremendous good it would do! But whereas that is not possible in the immediate future, it would be possible for some good Christian who is burdened about revival to send THE SWORD into every parsonage and manse in the state of Colorado. Think of the young, discouraged preachers passing through trials and deep waters in their pastorates who would be helped! Others, perhaps, could send THE SWORD to every minister of their denomination in their state. Revival WOULD come!

SWORD Deepens Young Pastor's Convictions

From California we received a letter similar to the one above. The minister said:

"I am a young pastor of a small Southern Baptist church. Approximately four months ago I was introduced to THE SWORD OF THE LORD by a fellow pastor. In these months I have been greatly strengthened by THE SWORD. I have been able to complete only one year of schooling, and that year was spent in a truly worldly Baptist university.

"THE SWORD has helped deepen my convictions concerning several fundamental doctrines that were neglected and sometimes scorned at the school I attended. It's wonderful to know that there are great men of God standing for the old fashioned religion..."

Note two remarkable and blessed things about this letter: (1) One pastor, greatly blessed by THE SWORD in his own ministry, told a fellow pastor about it so that he, too, could share in its wonderful help; (2) THE SWORD helped this young preacher get deepened convictions about several "fundamental doctrines" neglected

and scorned, he says, at the university where he attended. It would be impossible to put into black and white the difference in a life of ministry between what this young preacher will now do for God and what he would have done had it not been for his learning of THE SWORD OF THE LORD through his preacher friend. Yes, THE SWORD is America's foremost religious weekly for young preachers!

"The Greatest Evangelistic Paper in Existence!"

A minister of a Church of God assembly in Kansas wrote us in July requesting a free copy of Dr. Robert G. Lee's booklet, *How to Lead a Soul to Christ*, and then said:

"THE SWORD has been a great blessing in my ministry. I look forward to receiving it every week. I think it is the greatest evangelistic paper in existence—at least, to my knowledge. God bless you for your work.

"We are praying for a general revival among God's people, and are doing our best to lead the congregation here where we serve to be a strong soul-winning church. Folks are finding the Lord in our services weekly for which we praise God."

One thing that I have noticed about the ministers who subscribe to this paper is that conversions in their churches are not at all unusual or out of the ordinary. We are not claiming all the credit, of course, but there is something about this paper in the hands of preachers which produces a burning, compassionate, soul-winning heart and life. Instead of dismissing your pastor, why not subscribe for him to THE SWORD OF THE LORD and give its influence a chance in his life and ministry for a year, while you pray daily for him. You may find the results amazing!

THE SWORD Only Preacher on Tsushima Island

A good brother in Kentucky sent us a copy of the July, 1955, issue of the *Christian Business Men's League Bulletin* which contained a letter from a missionary couple in Japan. After thanking friends for tracts sent, they wrote:

"Recently I returned from a Tract Invasion of Tsushima Island, which is half way between Japan and Korea. This island is 12 miles wide and 48 miles long with absolutely NO workers for the Lord. In the city of Izuwara I found a broken-down Church which operated before the war but has now gone into decay and I found about 6 of the old Church members who still hold a weekly Bible class which is taught by an old retired English teacher who teaches them from THE SWORD OF THE LORD. I found no missionaries, no preachers or Christian workers whatsoever, only a few non-witnessing Christians. This island has a population of 100,000 and the need is for missionaries immediately. This is a MUST on your prayer list..."

Pray God for a missionary! Praise God for THE SWORD OF THE LORD doing the work where there is no preacher, until one can be found!

What Will You Do?

The brother from Kentucky who sent us the above from the *Christian Business Men's League Bulletin* wrote,

"... I think we should at least send another copy of THE SWORD to these Islands (if you have the name of any one there). So I'm enclosing check for \$3.00 subscription although I think it could stand more if you can advise me."

His heart was burdened enough about the need that he was willing to do something about it—at his own expense! Everywhere, we have found that whenever people get burdened about the need, they are willing to do something about it themselves. Do you feel a burden to help get out the foremost religious paper in the world? Are

The other day Mr. G. H. Willms, of Herald Book and Printing Company, Newton, Kansas, where the actual printing and mailing of THE SWORD OF THE LORD is done each week, was in the Editor's office in Wheaton. It was necessary to plan for the future. Newsprint paper is not always easy to secure. We should sign a contract for paper for at least three years in advance.

THE SWORD OF THE LORD now takes one full freight carload of paper each month, twelve full carloads a year. Mr. Willms and the editor figured that it would take fifty carloads of paper in the next three years, and he is negotiating a contract for that amount of paper.

The Sword of the Lord last week printed 117,000 copies of this big 12-page Christian weekly. We expect an increase in circulation to make it necessary to use perhaps fifteen carloads of paper in 1956, more than sixteen carloads in 1957, and nearly twenty carloads in 1958.

We rejoice in the blessing of

(Continued from page 1)

ish, but that all should come to repentance."

It certainly is clear, then, that anyone can be saved who is willing to be saved. No individual or special group of individuals has a corner on salvation. God loved the whole world so much that He provided a way of salvation for every single man and woman and boy and girl, and any person who is willing to be saved can be saved.

Of course, God knew there would be some who would reject Christ and others who would accept Christ. He even knew ahead of time the decision each one would make. And in His goodness and mercy, God determined that every one who would accept Christ should one day be like Christ. This is plainly stated in Romans 8:29, "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Every person who accepts Christ is predestined to become like Christ. But whether or not you accept Christ is a matter of your own deliberate choice. God does not predestinate anyone to be lost.

2 Even the Vilest May Be Saved

Nor are people unsaved because they have sinned so much that God will not save them. I spoke with a man in Ft. Worth, Texas, who had killed another man and who was certain God would never forgive a man whose sin had been so great. I spoke with a man in Brainerd, Minnesota, who told me of a great sin in his life that he felt would make it impossible for him to be saved. Many girls have gone into the scarlet sin and feel there is no hope for their souls. But the fact is, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief" (1 Tim. 1:15). Christ died to save sinners! Jesus Himself said that well people had no need of a physician but rather those who were sick. He came, He said, to call the wicked people to repentance. In Isaiah 1:18 we read, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall

you willing to do something about that burden, even to the point of personal sacrifice?

Then send us immediately your contribution for our Ministers and Missionaries Fund (M & M Fund) to help pay for subscriptions to preachers at home and abroad who cannot pay for themselves or who need to be introduced to this type of paper. Or make out your own list of subscriptions for folks you know who need or would be helped in their ministry by THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

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Help Our M & M Subscription Fund

Will you send a gift to the Sword of the Lord Ministers and Missionary Subscription Fund? Over 2,000 foreign missionaries get THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Many of them find it very difficult to pay for their own subscriptions. National full-time Christian workers in various countries long for THE SWORD OF THE LORD and plead for it. Many of them in the Philippine Islands, in India, in Africa, read English. Nearly 800 pastors in Japan read English and ask for THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Many ministers and ministerial students in the United States

Hell-bent

be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." And in Hebrews 7:25 we read that regardless of one's degree of sinfulness, Christ is able to save to the uttermost all who will come to Him.

I spoke one morning in the South Dakota State Penitentiary, and thirteen convicts openly claimed Christ as their Saviour. After the service, I drove to a near-by city where I was engaged in a revival campaign, arriving in time to preach in the morning service. During the message, I told of the thirteen convicts and how they had so gladly turned to Christ. At

(Continued on page 7)

want THE SWORD OF THE LORD and will read it. Will you send a gift to help with this great work?

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Hell-bent

(Continued from page 6)

the close of the service, an elderly couple came to me and timidly asked if they might see me in private. Of course, I was glad to speak with them. After everyone else had left, we sat down on the last pew in the church auditorium. I had supposed that the couple were husband and wife, but found instead that he was her son and was prematurely old. I asked them what they wanted to see me about, and the man said to me, "Mr. Rice, this morning you told of thirteen convicts who were saved in the penitentiary. What I want to know is this, do you honestly believe they really and truly were saved? Will God save a convict?"

I assured him at once that if these men had sincerely turned from their sins to trust the Saviour, that there was no doubt but that they were actually saved. Putting his hand on my knee, he looked long and earnestly into my face, and then, with a trembling voice and eyes filled with tears, he said, "I have spent most of my life in the Leavenworth Penitentiary. And I deserved to be there. My life has been a wicked one. As I look back, I do not have one thing to be proud of. I have not long to live, and so they turned me loose so I could come home and see my mother again before I die. Please tell me the truth, Mr. Rice, don't lie to me—please tell me the truth—would God forgive even me for my sins? Could I be saved? Please don't lie to me—tell me the truth—is there any hope for me?"

It stirred my heart. I took him by the hand and said to him, "Upon my word of honor and with all the sincerity of my heart, I tell you God loves you. Christ died for you. He is willing to save you and save you right now even before you leave this building."

His mother nudged him for all the world as though he were only a little boy and said to him, "That's right! That's right! Listen to the preacher, Sonny, listen to the preacher!" And how he listened as I opened my Bible and showed him Scripture after Scripture promising everlasting life for every one who will trust the Saviour. I told him of Saul who became Paul, the mighty apostle. I told him of Rahab, the harlot, who became Rahab, the pure. I told him of Zacharias, the thief, of Peter who swore, of the woman taken in adultery, and of many other vile sinners whom Jesus saved. I will never forget how he prayed, confessing his sins and asking God to save him, nor how happy he was when he left the building a saved man.

One of the most blessed things about preaching the Gospel is that I can honestly say to any man or woman or boy or girl with whom I come in contact, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou"—no matter who you are, what your name is, where you come from, or what your past has been—"shalt be saved." If you are not a Christian, it is because you are not willing to be saved; it is not because God is not willing to save you.

II. Why Men Are Unwilling to Be Saved

The only reason any person is unsaved is because he is unwilling to be saved. There may be, however, any number of reasons as to why he is unwilling. Always, the reason is a sinful one. If you are unsaved, it is because of sin.

1. Sinful Habits.

Many a man is unsaved because of some habit that he feels he must give up in order to be saved. And yet, God would have us give up only the habits that are harmful to us. Some habits are good, and some are bad. It is only those that are detrimental mentally or physically or morally that God would have you break.

A short time ago in a revival campaign, I spoke to a young man about being saved. He told me quite frankly that he was not willing to be saved because he liked a "stiff drink of whiskey and a big black cigar now and then." He went on to say that he felt God would want him to give

these things up if he were going to be a Christian.

Immediately, I asked, "For whose sake does God want you to quit smoking and drinking? Does God want you to stop drinking because He is afraid you will run over Him in your car? Does God want you to stop smoking because the cigar smoke nauseates Him? Think, man, think! For whose sake does God want you to stop drinking and smoking? Is God selfish in the matter, or is it because He loves you and your wife and the baby sleeping in your arms? Be honest—for whose sake does God want you to live a clean, sober life?"

He did think! The next night he and his wife came forward to publicly claim Christ.

Good neighbor, do not allow some silly, cheap, filthy habit to keep you from Christ. It is not only wicked; it is foolish. It is doubly foolish, for it will not only send your soul to Hell forever but will keep you from getting the most out of this life.

2. Sinful Pleasure

There are some people who are forever complaining about how much they must "give up" to become a Christian. If it is not some sinful habit, it may be a sinful pleasure. It may be movies; it may be dancing; it may be pecking or cards or gambling. To hear some people talk, one would think that being a Christian is little better than being in prison or being hog-tied and hobbled. But the fact is, Jesus came, He said, "that ye might have life and have it more abundantly." Real pleasure, real joy, comes only through Christ. It used to thrill my heart to hear Bill Stroh sing:

"Time may tarnish earthly treasures,

Take what I have loved before—
Jesus gives abiding pleasures,
Having Him, I want no more."

The things that are good, decent, wholesome, uplifting—things that go to make for real joy—the Lord nowhere so much as hints that He would have us give them up. And anything that is vile, unhealthy, unclean, degrading, will not make for joy but for sorrow. Any person with a lick of common sense would give them up for his own betterment even if the Bible did not have a word to say about them.

Some time ago Mrs. Rice and I were in a revival campaign in Kansas. One night three young schoolteachers came to Cathy and asked her if I would be willing to remain after church for a discussion with them. She assured them I would be more than happy, to talk with them and made the arrangements. Accordingly, after the service was dismissed and all others had left the auditorium, they stayed behind to discuss their problems with me. They told me how they taught in rural schools and that the only social outlet for them was the Friday and Saturday night community dances. Very earnestly one of the girls said to me, "Mr. Rice, we are young. We want to have fun; we want to do things and go places. We want to be with boys, and so many of them are in the armed forces that about the only opportunity to be with those who are here is to meet them at the dances. If we become Christians, as you urge us every night to become, of course, we would have to give up these dances. Now, tell us the truth, would you become a Christian if you were in our place? Or would you wait until you are married and settled down and then be saved? We have discussed this problem among ourselves ever since the campaign began, and we have decided to ask you personally to advise with us. What would you do?"

I neither laughed nor upbraided them. It was a very, very serious matter to them. They were trying to face their problem honestly. Very earnestly I discussed the problem with them. Would these community dances be beneficial to their health? Would it increase respect for them among their pupils? Would it increase their opportunities for better teaching positions? Would dances tend to help them morally—were the men with whom they danced the fin-

est or the trashiest in the community? "You girls tell me you want to be with the young men and that is perfectly normal and right," I told them, "but are these the kind of young men you want to marry? Do these young men respect you, or do they make evil, adulterous suggestions to you?" The looks on their faces gave me my answer as I continued: "If a man is evil now, do you believe marriage would change him? Don't you know that if he is wicked now and lusts after you, he would be the same with every other girl even though he were married to you? Is that the type of man you want to marry?"

The upshot of the whole matter was that all three of these school teachers publicly accepted the Lord Jesus Christ the following night.

The Devil would have you believe that one loses something worthwhile in order to become a Christian, but nothing could be further from the truth. Romans 8:32 says, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

Instead of losing anything, one gains immeasurably by having a heavenly Father who loves us so dearly He even gave His own Son for our salvation. Surely, if God loves us so much there is nothing good He would not want us to have. As a matter of fact, the closer one walks with the Lord, the more one has of those things that make for real joy. Psalm 84:11 has long been a favorite verse of mine, "For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."

Whether you are a Christian or not, it will pay you to live the kind of life a Christian is supposed to live. Benjamin Franklin was right when he said, "Honesty is the best policy." And the old saying, "Virtue is its own reward," is a true one. Any pleasure that would keep you from Christ is a sinful pleasure that will doubtless cause you anguish, heartache, tears and remorse.

Speaking to a Rotary Club in Alexandria, Minnesota, I said, "Men, when you come to the sun-down of life, and your sun is setting, if you look back over your life and then forward beyond the sunset into the future, you are going to find that values have strangely changed. Many a thing that may mean much to you today will have lost its luster, its attractiveness and its value. You will marvel then that you ever paid so high a price for dishonesty, for drunkenness, for adultery; for all ungodliness. And if you look into the future, if it is to be a future without Christ and Heaven, you will marvel that you let anything in the world hinder your becoming a Christian." Anything in this world is far too expensive if it costs you Christ!

3. Sinful Business

Ever so often a man will say to me, "You can't be a Christian in my business."

My reply is always, "Then you are a fool to remain in business." Whether your job is that of a bartender, a theater operator, or a crooked cattle buyer, you are playing the fool to remain in such a business rather than become a Christian.

Judas Iscariot was not only wicked—he was a wicked fool! He was a lame-brain, a nit-wit—just plain stupid! He was "penny-wise and dollar-foolish." For thirty pieces of silver—approximately eighteen dollars in American money (Jamieson-Fausset-Brown)—he sold out to the Devil. Can you imagine a man spending eternity in Hell for eighteen dollars? Or eighteen thousand dollars! What a stupid, wicked fool!

Salvation is a precious gift all the silver and gold in the world cannot buy. Will you forfeit it, then, for a few dollars? Or will you turn from dishonest gain to receive the Saviour?

4. Sinful Friends and Loved Ones

Perhaps nothing today keeps so many people from Christ as the fear of what others say or think. Many a boy has felt a tug at his heart and has longed to be saved but hesitates at the thought of what the "fellows" would say to

him about it. Many a girl, convicted of sin, has been hungry for Christ and forgiveness but puts off salvation lest her friends make catty remarks and she becomes an object of ridicule.

Many a man would long since have been saved had it not been for the reaction of "the boys" when he refused to drink or gamble with them. This is probably what Proverbs 29:25 means, "The fear of man bringeth a snare." Fear of ridicule and loss of friendship has always been one of Satan's strongest arguments to persuade men and women to reject Christ. Jesus Himself lost many, many followers because of the "murmur" of the crowd. There were others of whom it was said, "They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." (John 12:43).

It is a pathetic thing that men will go to Hell because of the opinion of friends. It is doubly pathetic when one realizes that any person who would keep you from Christ is no friend of yours—he is your worst enemy!

Time and time again in revival campaigns, we have known a wife or a husband who refused to accept Christ until the companion would also be saved. Many a woman has felt it would be unwise to be a Christian unless her husband would also become a Christian. This is not wise; it is foolish and wicked.

God has more sense than you. If the Holy Spirit pleads with you to be saved, who are you to say, "God, you don't understand my case. You are mistaken. It will be better if I wait until my loved one is saved also." You are openly rebellious against God. You are saying you know more than He. And you are on the road to Hell!

It will not only mean your own salvation, but you will have a

much better chance of winning your loved ones if you are a Christian. Time and time again we have seen a wife come to Christ without her husband, sometimes in the face of his scorn and ridicule, and many times we have known the husband to be saved within a few days because of her own changed life and her prayers. Please remember, the salvation of many others may depend upon your being saved.

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(Continued on page 8)

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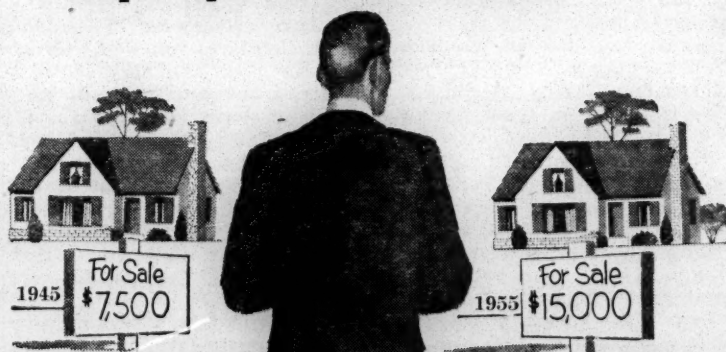
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(Continued from page 1)

No reform will be effectual that does not begin with the heart. "I will put a new spirit within you; and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep my ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God" (Ezek. 11:19-20).

that it makes no final difference what you believe, or how you act—you are bound for Heaven, anyhow. There they sit, side by side, in Heaven: Garfield, and Guiteau who shot him; Lincoln, and John Wilkes Booth who assassinated him; Washington, and Thomas Paine who slandered him; Nana Sahib, and the missionaries whom he clubbed to death at Cawnpore; Herod, and the children whom he massacred; Paul, and Nero who beheaded him. As a result of the promulgation of such a mongrel and conglomerate

(Continued from page 7)

His wife bowed her head over the piano keyboard and wept. I invited others to come, and a second "bang" was heard as one of his friends dropped his hymnal and came forward! And in the following service, two more friends came to trust the Saviour. Four of his friends had taken Jesus Christ, too.

By receiving Christ, Jim not only was saved himself but won his friends, gave his wife a Christian husband and his children a Christian dad who will doubtless win them for Christ and Heaven when they are a bit older.

Dear friend, if you are unsaved, it is because you are not willing to come to Christ and let Him save you. Please believe me, you will make the most serious mistake of your life if you will not turn to the Lord Jesus and trust Him for salvation.

(From the book, THE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION WHO LOST HIS LIFE, Sword of the Lord Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois.)

You have read the above earnest and powerful sermon by Evangelist Bill Rice, of the Bill Rice Ranch, Franklin Road, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Doubtless many a person who reads this knows that he is a poor, lost sinner. Then I beg you in Jesus' name, turn from sin today and trust Jesus Christ. Remember the blessed promise is that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). God loves you, Jesus Christ died for you. The very moment that you put your trust in Him, you will have everlasting life. That is God's promise, and it is true. You cannot save yourself. If you will trust Jesus Christ, the very moment you commit yourself to Him, rely upon Him, and give Him your whole heart, that moment He will save you forever! Will you do it?

If you will take Christ as your own personal Saviour this moment, I beg you to sign this decision form below, copy it in a letter, and mail it to me. I will tell Brother Bill Rice, and he will be so glad. And so will I. And I will write you a letter of encouragement and counsel. Do it now!

Evangelist John R. Rice
Editor, THE SWORD OF THE LORD
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

Yes, I have read Brother Bill Rice's sermon, "Hell-Bent." I know that I am a poor, lost sinner. I realize that I need forgiveness. I believe that Jesus loves me and died for me as the Bible says. Therefore I here and now trust Him to be my own personal Saviour. This moment I give Him my heart, I rely upon Him now to forgive me and save me. I will claim Him as my Saviour, and set out to live for Him. By sending you this letter, I mean to claim Jesus Christ as my own Saviour.

Signed _____
Address _____

Heaven, there are millions of people in Christendom who expect to go straight to Heaven from their seraglios, and their inebriation, and their suicides, when among the loudest thunders that break over the basaltic island to which St. John was ex-patriated, was the one in which God announced that "the abominable, and the murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Rev. 21:8).

Had the glorious Gospel been given full opportunity, I think before this the world would have had no need of pulpit, or sermon, or prayer, or church, but thanksgiving and hosannas would have resounded in the temple to which the mountains would have been pillars, and the blue skies the dome, and the rivers the baptistery, and all nations the worshipers in the auditorium of the outspread world. But so far from

that, as I remarked in the opening sentence of this sermon, the greatest novelty of our time is the Gospel. When the glorious Gospel of the blessed God is spoken of in my text gets full swing, it will have a momentum and a power mightier than that of the Atlantic Ocean, when under the force of the September equinox it strikes the Highlands of the Navesink.

The meaning of the word "Gospel" is "good news," and my text says it is glorious good news, and we must tell it in our churches, and over our dry-goods counters, and in our factories, and over our threshing machines, and behind our ploughs, and on our ships' decks, and in our parlors, our nurseries and kitchens, as though it were glorious good news, and not with a dismal drawl in our voice, and a dismal look on our faces, as though religion were a rheumatic twinge, or a dyspeptic

pang, or a malarial chill, or an
 attack of nervous prostration.
 With nine "blesseds" or "happys,"
 Christ began His Sermon on the
 Mount: 'Blessed the poor; blessed
 the mourner; blessed the meek;
 blessed the hungry; blessed the
 merciful; blessed the pure; blessed
 the peacemakers; blessed the
 persecuted; blessed the reviled;
 blessed, blessed, blessed! happy,
 happy, happy!'

Glorious good news for the young as through Christ they may have their coming years ennobled, and for a lifetime all the angels of God their coadjutors and all the armies of Heaven their allies! Glorious good news for the middle-aged as through Christ they may have their perplexities disentangled, and their courage rallied, and their victory over all obstacles and hindrances made forever sure! Glorious good news for the aged as they may have the sympathy of Him of whom St. John wrote: "His head and his hairs were

(Continued on page 9)



The King of the Jews

By Evangelist John R. Rice, Litt.D., D.D.

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PACKS A PUNCH AGAINST SIN! As an illustration, note the author's remarks on Matthew 12:33-37: "These verses tell what is wrong with the whole world. It is the hearts of men. Wicked thoughts, wicked words, wicked deeds, all proceed from wicked hearts. How can unregenerate, wicked men, called by Jesus a 'generation of vipers,' poisonous snakes, 'speak good things' or do good deeds? Men are wicked by nature just as a rattlesnake is poisonous by nature. Education, culture, reformation will not make a man good nor a poisonous snake safe. You cannot expect good fruit from

PACKS A PUNCH FOR PREMILLENNIAL TRUTH! Dr. V. Raymond Edman, president of Wheaton College commented on this point: "Without the perspective of the premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ many portions of the Scriptures are difficult, and even impossible, to understand. To realize that the Saviour came as 'that Prophet,' and after His resurrection ascended into Heaven to be our great High Priest; from which place He shall come again into this world as King is 'rightly to divide the Scriptures.' No Bible study is more helpful than that which explains the Bible, portion by portion; and that exposition is done excellently in this commentary on the Gospel according to Matthew. The text is illuminated, its lessons are made personal and emphatic, the understanding of the reader is enlightened, and his heart is warmed."

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The Glorious Gospel

(Continued from page 8)

white like wool, as white as snow," and the defense of the everlasting arms! Glorious good news for the dying as they may have ministering spirits to escort them, and opening gates to receive them, and a sweep of eternal glories to encircle them, and the welcome of a loving God to embosom them!

Oh, my text is right when it speaks of the glorious Gospel. It is an invitation from the most radiant Being that ever trod the earth, or ascended the heavens, to you and me to come and be made happy, and then take after that a Royal Castle for everlasting residence, the angels of God our cupbearers.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Matt. 11:28, 29). "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:1-3).

The Price of Forgiveness

The price paid for all of this on the cliff of limestone, about seven minutes' walk from the wall of Jerusalem, where with an agony that with one hand tore down the rocks, and with the other drew a midnight blackness over the heavens, our Lord set us forever free. Making no apology for any one of the million sins of our life, but confessing all of them, we can point to that cliff of limestone and say, "There was paid our indebtedness, and God never collects a bill twice." "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." "Being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

Glad am I that all the Christian poets have exerted their pen in extolling the matchless One of this Gospel. Isaac Watts, how do you feel concerning Him? And he writes, "I am not ashamed to own my Lord." Newton, what do you think of this Gospel? And he writes, "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound!" Cowper, what do you think of Him? And the answer comes, "There is a fountain filled with blood." Charles Wesley, what do you think of Him? And he answers, "Jesus, Lover of my soul." Horatius Bonar, what do you think of Him? And he responds, "I lay my sins on Jesus." Ray Palmer, what do you think of Him? And he writes, "My faith looks up to Thee." Fanny Crosby, what do you think of Him? And she writes, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine."

But I take higher testimony: Solomon, what do you think of Him? And the answer is, "Lily of the valley." Ezekiel, what do you think of Him? And the answer is, "Plant of renown." David, what do you think of Him? And the answer is, "My Shepherd." Saint John, what do you think of Him? And the answer is, "Bright and morning star." Saint Paul, what do you think of Him? And the answer comes, "Christ is all in all."

Do you think as well of Him, O man, O woman, of the blood-bought immortal spirit? Yes, Paul was right when he styled it, "The Glorious Gospel." And then, as a druggist, while you are waiting for him to make up the doctor's prescription, puts into bottle so many grains of this, and so many grains of that, and so many drops of this, and so many drops of that, and the intermixture taken, though sour or bitter, restores to health; so Christ, the Divine Physician, prepares this trouble of our lifetime, and that disappointment, and this persecution, and that hardship, and that tear, and we must take the intermixture, yet though it be a bitter draught, under the divine prescription it administers to our restoration and spiritual health, "all things working together for good." Glorious Gospel!

And then the Royal Castle into which we step out of this life, without so much as soiling our foot with the upturned earth of the grave! "They shall reign for ever and ever." Does not that mean that you are, if saved, to be kings and queens, and do not kings and queens have castles? But the one that you are offered was, for thirty-three years, an abandoned castle, though now gloriously inhabited.

There is an abandoned royal castle at Amber, India. One hundred and seventy years ago a king moved out of it, never to return. But the castle still stands, and indescribable grandeur, and you go through brazen doorway after brazen doorway, and carved room after carved room, and under embellished ceiling after embellished ceiling, and through halls, precious-stoned, into wider halls, precious-stoned, and on that hill are pavilions, deeply dyed, and tasselled, and arched, the fire of colored gardens cooled by the snow of white architecture; birds in arabesque so natural to life that while you cannot hear voices you imagine you see the flutter of their wings while you are passing; walls, pictured with triumphal procession; rooms that were called "Alcove of Light," and "Hall of Victory"; marble, white and black, like a mixture of morn and night; alabaster, and mother-of-pearl and lacquer-work. Standing before it, the eye climbs from step to latticed balcony, and from latticed balcony to oriel, and from oriel to arch, and from arch to roof, and then descends on ladders of all colors, and by stairs of perfect lines to tropical gardens of pomegranate and pine apple. Seven stories of resplendent architecture!

But the Royal Castle provided for you, if you will only take it on the prescribed terms, is grander than all that, and though an abandoned castle while Christ was here achieving your redemption, is again occupied by the "Chief among ten thousand," and some of your own kindred who have gone up, and waiting for you are leaning from the balcony. The windows of that castle look off on the King's gardens where immortals walk linked in eternal friendship; and the banquet hall of that castle has princes and princesses at the table; and the wine is "the new wine of the kingdom," and the supper is the marriage supper of the Lamb; and there are fountains into which no tear ever fell, and there is music that trembles with no grief, and the light that falls upon that scene is never beclouded, and there is the kiss of those reunited after long separation. More nerve will we have there than now, or we would swoon away under the raptures. Stronger vision will we have there than now, or our eyesight would be blinded by the brilliance. Stronger ears will we have there than now, or under the roll of that minstrelsy, and the clapping of that acclamation, and the boom of that hallelujah we would be deafened. Glorious Gospel! You thought religion was a strait jacket, that it put you on the limits, that thereafter you must go cowed down. No, no, no! It is to be castellated.

By the cleansing power of the shed blood of Golgotha set your face toward the shining pinnacles. Oh, it does not matter much what becomes of us here—for at the longest our stay is short—if we can only land there. You see there are so many I do want to meet there. Joshua, my favorite prophet; and John among the evangelists; and Paul among the apostles, and Wycliff among the martyrs, and Bourdaloue among the preachers, and Dante among the poets and Havelock among the heroes, and our loved ones whom we have so much missed since they left us, so many darlings of the heart, their absence sometimes almost unbearable; and, mentioned in this sentence last of all, because I want the thought climactic, our blessed Lord without whom we could never reach the old castle at all. He took our place. He purchased our ransom. He wept our woes. He suffered our stripes. He

died our death. He assured our resurrection. Blessed be His glorious name forever! Surging to His ear be all the anthems! Facing Him be all the thrones!

Oh, I want to see it, and I will see it—the day of His coronation. On a throne already; methinks the day will come when in some great hall of eternity all the nations of earth whom He has conquered by His grace will assemble again to crown Him. Wide and high and immense and upholstered as with the sunrises and sunsets of a thousand years, great audience room of Heaven. Like the leaves of an Adirondack forest the ransomed multitudes, and Christ standing on a high place surrounded by worshipers and subjects. They shall come out of the farthest past led on by the prophets. They shall come out of the early Gospel days led on by the apostles. They shall come out of the centuries still ahead of us, led on by champions of the truth, heroes and heroines yet to be born.

And then from that vastest audience ever assembled in all the universe there will go up the shout, "Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him!" and the Father, who long ago promised this, His only begotten Son, "I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession," shall set the crown upon the forehead yet scarred with crucifixion bramble, and all the hosts of Heaven, down on the levels, and up in the galleries will drop on their knees crying, "Hail, King of earth! King of Heaven! King of saints! King of seraphs! Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and to thy dominions there shall be no end! Amen and Amen! Amen and Amen!"

Eternity

I ask you, where will you spend

eternity? Oh, prepare for it. Leave it not until the last hour. Leave it not until you get sick. You may never be sick. Leave it not until you get more time. You may never get more time. Leave it not until you get old. You may never get old. Leave it not until tomorrow. This night thy soul may be required of thee. And, suppose, in that moment, you should say, "Wait until I kneel down and say my prayers." Death would respond, "No time now to say your prayers." "Wait until I get my friends together and bid them good-by." Death would say, "You cannot stop to bid them good-by." "But I cannot go into eternity with all these sins about me. Give me time to repent." Death would say, "Too late to repent! Thy soul is required of thee this hour, this minute, this second!"

Oh, by the cross of Christ, repent! Bow your head this moment and say, "Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me!" In Christ, you are safe. Out of Him you perish.

— THE END —

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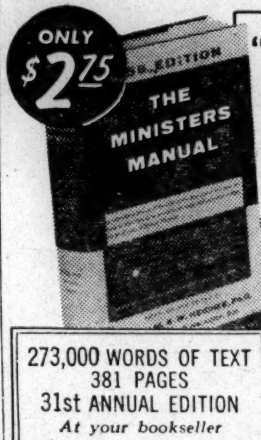
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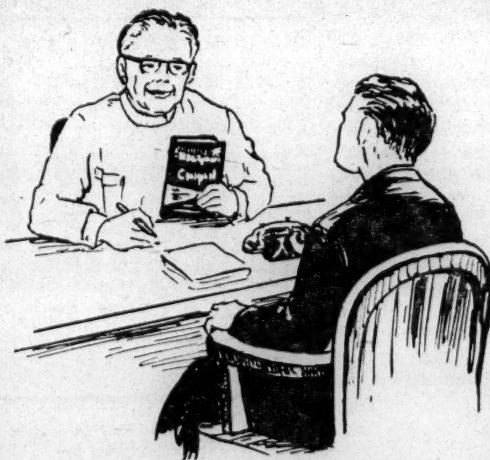
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If one should spend one's whole life for God, and win only one soul by the most earnest and devoted efforts, it would be a rich reward for ever in the firmament of heaven, to see that one gem glistening for ever in the diadem of Christ, to see that one sheep feeding for ever in the pastures of eternal life.

—C. H. Spurgeon

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Bible Doctrine of the Church

(Continued from page 1)

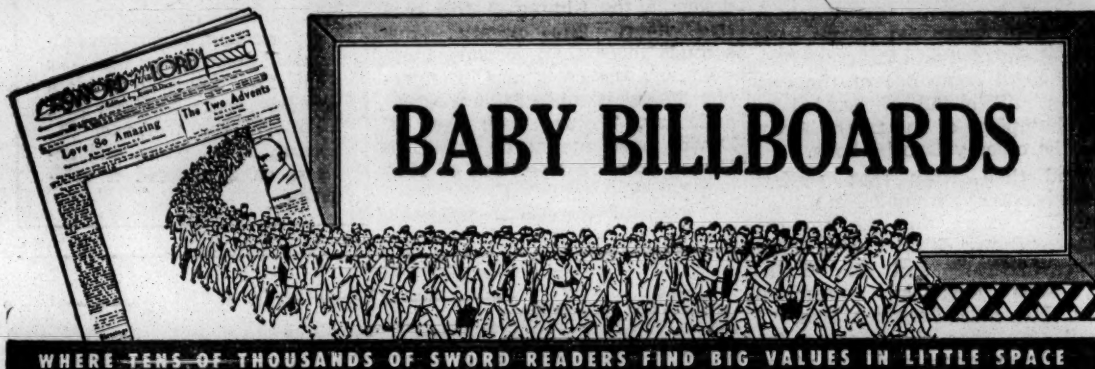
is the mother of the Bible and has a right to add to the Bible or take from it. The Catholic position is that the authority should be in the church and not in the Bible. The church, the pope, and Mary get more honor than does Jesus Christ. Salvation is to come through priests and church ceremonies, our Catholic friends think. This high church position has spread itself throughout the Christian world. A Church of Christ or Campbellite preacher down South is just as high church as Rome, teaching that one cannot be saved without baptism by immersion, by a Campbellite preacher, and without attending and serving in a local congregation. And most denominations' preachers are held accountable to a bishop, a superintendent, or an eldership, instead of being regarded as personally accountable to Jesus Christ and bound and controlled by the rules of Scripture. That is high church doctrine. Our

Lutheran friends think that salvation is partly in baptism, and so salvation is dependent upon the church. The high church position is that evangelists should preach only when invited by a church, that missionaries should be sent out only by a church or groups of churches. The big tendency, which fits in with human ideas, is to put emphasis upon the church and the denomination instead of on Christ and on the Bible.

On the contrary, the low church position is that the Bible itself is the absolute authority for every individual Christian, every local congregation and every preacher. The Great Commission is given to every Christian and every Christian is obligated to win souls. Any individual soul can come to Christ and be saved by personal faith in Jesus Christ without the intervention of church rites or church authority, without a priest and

(Continued on page 11)

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News Notes

PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR 80 YEARS

Miss Jennie Culbertson Powers of Philadelphia, Pa., recently rounded out eighty years of perfect attendance at Sunday School. Miss Powers, a chipper lady of 84, received a wire from President Eisenhower congratulating her on the remarkable record.

Ever since 1875, Miss Powers has gone to her church, the West-side Presbyterian Church in Germantown, without missing a single Sunday. There were times her record was endangered, such as driving heavy snowfalls when she had to "plow through on foot" the several blocks to church. During the World War I "flu" epidemic the church was closed for four weeks. But the pastor told her, "Jennie, you go ahead. We'll have the secretary there to mark you present, and the two of you can be the Sunday School."

This cheerful old lady tells her friends: "I have three homes—my earthly home, my church home, and my heavenly home. I've been happy in two, and know that I'll be happy in the third."

U. S. NO LONGER PROTESTANT?

Samuel Cardinal Stritch of Chicago said in Caracas, Venezuela, this summer that the United States no longer can be called a Protestant country. He said Catholicism is making so much headway that it is a real rival of Protestantism among the American people.

Perhaps the American public should take more seriously this threat to American liberty and peace. One need only look at Colombia, South America, to see why it is a threat to liberty, and to South America in general to see why it endangers peace. Catholicism is meeting with severe difficulties in Latin America, where it long reigned supreme.

BRYAN PRESIDENT RESIGNS

Dr. Judson Rudd, after completing nineteen years as President of Bryan University, Dayton, Tennessee, recently submitted his resignation to the board of trustees, due to ill health and upon the advice of his doctor.

TWO NEW CHRISTIAN FILMS

Two Christian films, similar in aim but divergent in content, are being released this fall. The one is a Westminster film entitled "The Glass Mountain," and the other is a Moody Institute of Science film, "Time and Eternity."

The former will feature Merv Rosell in what is his first major

(Continued on page 11)

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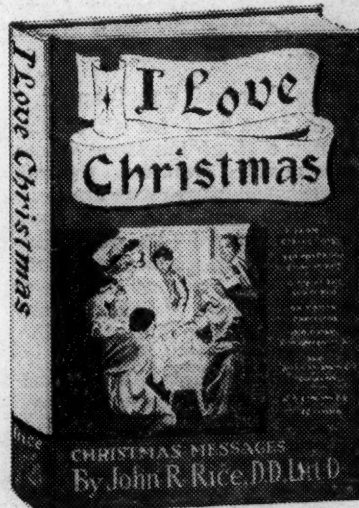
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Bible Doctrine of the Church

(Continued from page 10)

without a mass. Every preacher is called of God to preach and must preach under the direct leading of Christ and being bound by the doctrines and principles of the Word of God. It is not necessarily wrong for individuals and for congregations to co-operate, and it is often wise for groups of Christians

to work together. But the authority is not in the organization but in Christ, and the commands of God are clearly revealed in the Word of God and are interpreted by the Holy Spirit to the spiritual believer. Every individual Christian is to read the Bible for himself and obey it for himself. Every individual Christian is to pray for daily leading and to follow that leading in his witnessing, in his giving, in his fellowship. And this low church position is, we believe, the Bible position.

When I was a lad in west Texas with sparse population, the churches were very small and had preaching only one or two Sundays per month. On the fifth

Sunday of the month, once a quarter, pastors and others would gather to some church for a county-wide "fifth Sunday meeting." There would be great preaching, and often very helpful and spiritual Bible discussion. One subject often discussed was, "To whom did Jesus Christ give the Great Commission?" The answer was usually given, "To the Baptist church."

Now I have learned that that answer is wrong on two counts. In the first place, there is no such thing as "the Baptist church." There are Baptist churches, individual congregations, but each one in theory is an independent democratic body, owning its own property, calling its own pastor, supporting any program of its own choice or not. At least a group of Baptist churches are still independent churches. They are not "the Baptist church."

And the answer given in those meetings was wrong on another count. The Great Commission was not given to any man-made organization, to any group of people alone or primarily. It was given to every Christian, as I will show later.

This high-church idea is widely prevalent among nearly all the denominations. I believe that it originated with Rome, and is part of the Protestant heritage which we have received from that "mother of harlots," as the Bible describes the Roman Church in Revelation 17:5. I believe it continues even among people like Baptists who do not intentionally owe any allegiance to Rome, nor claim any descent from Rome, because of the same weakness of human flesh which led the Roman church wrong. A big human organization appeals to the carnal mind and impresses the world. The high-church attitude (big church, little Jesus) appeals to people for the same reason. It is easier to get people baptized than to get them born again, just as it is easier to get people to talk in tongues than it is to get them to be filled with the power of God for soul winning. It is easier to get people to join a church than it is to get them to be regenerated.

I. Scriptural Use of the Word "Church"

There are several wrong ideas and misuses of the word "church." Let us see how the Bible uses the term.

In the Bible, as you know, the Greek word *ekklesia* simply means a called-out assembly. It is used of Israel at Mount Sinai, "the church in the wilderness," by Stephen in Acts 7:38. It is used of the mob at Ephesus, translated "assembly" in Acts 19:32, 39 and 41. These three cases in Acts 19 are the only time the Greek word *ekklesia* is not translated "church." It is interesting that in the same chapter is the only time that any other word is translated "church." "Robbers of churches" in Acts 19:37 should be "robbers of temples." The word is not *ekklesia*, a called-out assembly, but refers to a building for worship. *Ekklesia* is never used for a church building.

The word *ekklesia* is used about ninety times, as I recall, clearly about local churches as "the church of God which is at Corinth" (I Cor. 1:2), about "the churches of Galatia" (Gal. 1:2), "the seven churches which are in Asia" (Rev. 1:4).

The term "church" is also used about that great called-out assembly who will be taken up to meet Christ at the rapture when Jesus comes, when the dead in Christ shall rise first and we shall be changed and caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air. That church is, as B. H. Carroll properly said, "prospective." That is, we have not yet been called out at the rapture, that body is not completed, it is not now assembled anywhere. But the whole body of Christ, including all the saved, are called "the church" prospectively, looking forward to the time when every saint of God will be called out to meet Him in the air, the Christians living and Christians dead.

There can be no possible doubt, I think, but that this general body of all the saved is referred to in Hebrews 12:22, 23, called "the general assembly and church of

News Notes

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effort in motion-picture evangelism. The highlight of "The Glass Mountain" is a scene in Pasadena's famed Rose Bowl, when at the beautiful Easter Sunrise Service Dr. Merv Rosell preaches the transcendent truths of the resurrection.

"Time and Eternity" is the seventh of the "Sermons from Science" series produced by Dr. Irwin Moon. It shows how time is related to space and motion, and, according to the "National Voice of Conservative Baptists," it can be guaranteed to keep the audience on the edge of their seats from beginning to end. Some remarkable techniques were employed in the filming of this picture in order to show that time is much more than seconds, minutes, or years. A strong evangelistic appeal is made by Dr. Moon at the close.

A BEAUTY QUEEN WITH HIGH STANDARDS

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the firstborn, which are written in heaven" who will be assembled to "the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels . . . God . . . to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus . . ."

Another Scripture which refers to the whole body of Christians, born-again saints who will be called out at the rapture, is Ephesians 1:22, 23: "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body . . ."

I think it is clear also that in Matthew 16:18 when Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it," He was speaking of those who have built upon Christ Jesus, all the saved who will be called out at the rapture. It could not have meant any human denomination including saved and lost, believers and infidels. It is this group, this church or body of Christ referred to, I think, in I Corinthians 12:13: "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." That Scripture could not possibly refer to anybody who is unsaved, so the one body could not mean either a denomination or a local church but the whole body of Christ, that general assembly who will be called out at the rapture and so properly fits the Greek word *ekklesia*, church.

First Peter 2:5 says, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house . . ." Every saved person is, in the act of regeneration, put into the body of Christ by the Spirit, made one with that group which will be called out at the rapture. So the word "church" certainly sometimes means the whole body of Christians.

II. Wrong Use of the Word "Church"

Now there are several errors in the use of the word "church." 1. The word "church" never means a denomination in the Bible. The term "the Roman Catholic Church" indicates the very heart of this Romish high-church heresy. The word "church" in the Bible means no such thing as any great human denomination. The whole idea is human, not divine. Denominations are extra-scriptural organizations, foreign to the New Testament. I do not think that the co-operation of local congregations is forbidden in the Bible, but rather encouraged. But denominational headquarters and programs are totally unknown in the New Testament. And denominational authority over churches or preachers or denominational institutions are expeditors not authorized by the New Testament. The word "church" never, in the Bible, means a denomination.

2. To apply certain Scriptures which are intended to refer to the whole body of Christ, that general assembly who will be called out to meet Christ in the air and assembled in Heaven, as if

Kay Ritchie, 18, from Denver, Colo., was interviewed recently in New York, and to the disappointment of some of the press photographers present, she wore no bathing suit. She does not expect to wear one again until next year's contest.

She does not smoke or drink and does not approve of scanty attire of the "cheesecake" variety. "I don't think there is anything queenly about it," she said. She was clad in a black wool jersey sheath dress when interviewed.

METHODISTS CANCEL FERRE'S TALKS

The Asheville, N. C., "Times" of August 9 tells how Dr. Nels F. Ferre was kept from appearing on the program of a Methodist gathering at Lake Junaluska, the week of August 14.

Upon learning that Ferre was listed as speaker for the Bible and Prayer Hour each day on the assembly program, the Rev. J. A. Baldwin, a retired Methodist Minister of Charlotte, N. C., immediately protested. His protest was courteously turned aside, but Baldwin would not give up. Part of his second letter to Mr. Harry Debnam, Nashville, Tenn., reads: "I have his books. Have you?"

"He over and over again denies the deity of Jesus. He even suggests the possibility that Jesus was the illegitimate son of Mary and a German soldier and goes on to tell there is reason to think so. Did Voltaire, Tom Paine, or Bob Ingersoll ever give utterance to a baser blasphemy?"

Again the request was ignored, but the Rev. Mr. Baldwin would not be silenced. He sent out almost a thousand letters and pamphlets to assembly trustees, speakers, ministers, and laymen, protesting Ferre's appearance on the program.

The talks were canceled "because of pressure," Ferre told the Asheville "Times." Edwin L. Jones, chairman of the trustees, refused to comment on the cancellation of Ferre's talk. He told Religious News Service, however, that "we want no quarreling or arguing."

The Good News Broadcaster, commenting on the above, says:

We believe that the rank and file of Methodists in the South will be grateful to the Rev. Mr. Baldwin for his courage and persistence. He performed a real service for them. In pointing to Ferre's books as proof that Ferre is no friend of the gospel of our Lord, Mr. Baldwin was wise. We too have some of Ferre's works on hand, and they identify him as a man who is destitute of faith in the inspired Word of God and in the Christ of God.

GRAHAM HEADQUARTERS STAYS IN MINNEAPOLIS

Minneapolis, Minn.—The international headquarters of evangelist Billy Graham will remain in Minneapolis.

Reports that it would be moved to Washington, D. C., are incorrect, George M. Wilson, business manager and secretary-treasurer of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, said.

The association, however, is thinking of opening a small central office in Washington for members of Mr. Graham's team, most of whom now live along the East coast, Mr. Wilson said. Such an office—little used—previously had been at Dallas, Tex.

But the big main headquarters which processes the mail that comes to Mr. Graham from around the world will stay at 1620 Harmon Place in Minneapolis, Mr. Wilson said.

It has a staff of some 125 persons at its three-story headquarters here.

"The name Minneapolis is established with listeners to Mr. Graham's program on 900 radio stations across the nation," Mr. Wilson pointed out. "We have too much involved here to move."

Minneapolis, he noted, is centrally located geographically and convenient for mail from both coasts.

As many as 25,000 letters have come to Mr. Graham's headquarters here in a single week.

Dr. Robert A. Cook of Wheaton completed seven years as president of Youth for Christ International on October 1.

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Bible Doctrine of the Church

(Continued from page 11)

those Scriptures referred specifically to a local church or to local churches in general, is a misuse of Scripture. For example, the pastor quoted above says, "I believe that Jesus loved the church and died for it." And doubtless he was simply saying what Ephesians 5:25 said, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." But he meant the local church and the Scripture meant the whole body of Christ who will be caught out at the rapture and assembled in Heaven.

There is no reason to say that Christ loved any particular local church and gave Himself for it, for that would not be all the story. And even if this pastor meant all the local churches that ever were, still, there have been some born-again people who never affiliated with a local congregation. The dying thief did not. The Old Testament saints would not be included in any membership of a local church and so it is only in part that Christ died for the people in local churches. He also died for any who are saved outside the local church. And there are some unsaved people in local churches. It is true that Christ died for them, but no more than for the unsaved outside the local churches. That Scripture does not refer certainly to the local church. Jesus did not give Himself wholly for Baptist

churches or Methodist congregations or for any other human organization. He gave Himself for all the Christians who would be assembled in Heaven at the rapture. And to give the honor to a local man-made organization that Christ gives to His own redeemed body is a misuse of Scripture, it seems to me. And it leads to muddled thinking and false doctrine and unscriptural practices.

In the same passage, Ephesians 5:23 said, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church." But the spiritual union between Christ and His church is not a union with local congregations which includes some unsaved people. It is a union with the body of Christ including all the saved, that assembly which will be called out at the rapture.

The Bible does not indicate that Jesus Christ died any more for a Baptist church than for a local Pentecostal assembly, or a Roman Catholic congregation. In fact, the Bible does not indicate that Christ died any more for a local congregation of Baptists, some saved and some lost, than for a masonic lodge, with some saved and some lost. To give honor to a man-made organization which God intends for that body He will call out, all the redeemed of all ages, to be assembled in Heaven, is wrong.

III. The Great Commission Not Given to Human Organizations

Again, it is a mistake to assume that Christ gave the Great Commission to local churches, as I understand the Scriptures. Our pastor friend says, "I believe that our local churches have been given the responsibility of carrying out the Lord's commission unto the uttermost parts of the earth." The Catholic church says that God gave that commission to the pope and to the Roman Catholic Church. Now some Baptist people say that God gave that commission to local churches, and some even say He gave it only to Baptist churches! But in this matter, both the Baptists and the Catholics are wrong.

1. Not Once in the Bible Did God Say He Gave the Great Commission to the Local Churches

Consider the Great Commission as given in Matthew 28:19, 20: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Not once is the local congregation mentioned.

Consider the Great Commission as given in Mark 16:15, 16: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Not once is the local church mentioned.

The Great Commission is also given in Luke 24:46: "Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things." The local church is not mentioned.

The Great Commission is given also in Acts 1:8 in these words: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Here again the local church is not mentioned.

2. The Great Commission Was Clearly Given to the Eleven Apostles

In Matthew 28:16 we are told "Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them." And it was to them that Jesus gave the commission.

In Mark 16:14 we are told, "Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat . . ." and gave them the Great Commission.

In Luke 24:33 we find that "the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them" and to them Jesus gave the Great Commission in verses 47 and 48.

In Acts 1:2 we find that the day in which Jesus was taken up, "after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen," He was assembled with them, these apostles (vs. 4), and gave them the Great Commission in verse 8. So directly, I say, the Great Commission was given to the eleven apostles and not to any local church as such.

3. But the Great Commission Is Handed Down to Us as Individuals

The eleven apostles are all dead. Now, to whom does the Great Commission apply? Who should feel commissioned to spread the Gospel to all the world? The answer in the Bible is very clear. That responsibility is not on the local church as such, primarily, but upon every individual Christian!

This is made clear in the statement of the Great Commission itself, as given in Matthew 28:19, 20. There Jesus said, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER I HAVE COMMANDED YOU: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Here we are plainly told that every apostle who got anybody saved was to baptize the convert and then teach the new convert to observe everything that God commanded the apostles to do! That is, every new convert was to go and get people saved, get them baptized, and teach them to win souls.

Thus everybody who has ever been saved is responsible to God for observing the Great Commission. Every Christian has a solemn obligation to win souls.

The high church idea, sponsored by Roman Catholicism, is that the responsibility is on the church. Only the church can spread the Gospel. Only the church can tell people where to give their money. Only the church can forgive sins. Only the church can explain the Bible. But that high-church idea is foreign to the Scriptures. Every individual must hear for himself, must trust for himself, must have direct access to Jesus Christ without any intervention of a priest or a church. All of us may spread the Gospel, but no one can go to God for the individual soul as Catholics say that Mary can and that the saints can and that a priest does. No, salvation is an individual matter. Then when one is saved, his duty is to God as an individual. And he gets his orders from God, not from the church. God did not give the Great Commission to the local churches but to every individual.

If one speaks in general terms and if one makes the word "church" mean all saved people, then in that sense, of course, the church has the Great Commission, but if one means a human organization, then God did not give the Great Commission to any human organization.

I believe that the idea of local congregations is divinely given, is from God. But the church is no more a divine institution than the family. And the church is no more a divine institution than a human life is. God originated the church and God originated man. And the local church itself is not nearly on the same basis as the supernatural life that is given to an individual Christian who is born of God, is made a partaker of the divine nature.

IV. The False High-Church Idea Leads to Other Errors in Doctrine and Methods Like "Storehouse" Tithing

This letter further says, "I believe the Christian's tithe should be placed in his local church." But the Bible does not even mention such a matter. That is an implication gotten from an un-

scriptural idea of the church. It fits perfectly with the Roman Catholic position. It does not fit with the Bible position. The Bible gives the plain command, "...let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come" (I Cor. 16:2). The storehouse for a Christian is his own bank account, or the sock under the mattress, or anywhere else that a Christian lays aside "by him" the offering or tithe or gift which he puts aside for God. The idea of the church as a storehouse is not taught in the Bible. To apply the words about the temple at Jerusalem in Malachi 3:10 is certainly unjustified. The temple building at Jerusalem from which the ceremonial law was carried out, and from which the priests and Levites were fed, has no counterpart in the New Testament and any old-time Baptist ought to be the first in the world to acknowledge that. For selfish reasons here Baptists have followed Rome in an unscriptural high-church position. The Bible has a lot to say about giving in the New Testament. If God had wanted the church to be the storehouse and had wanted Christians to bring their tithes all to the local church, God would have said so, but He did not.

Instead, the Scripture says, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" (II Cor. 9:7). Every man is to have clear leading from God about where and how he is to give. Every man is to keep the Lord's money "by him in store" until he can put it where he feels God wants it to go.

The pastor quoted mentions an evangelist friend who is doing God's work but he says that if his work is to be supported, as it should, it should be supported by contributions above the tithe. Again, that is a man-made rule, not even mentioned in the Bible. It grows from the Romish church position. It does not grow from New Testament practice or New Testament precept.

This pastor writes, "When I invite an evangelist to my church I want him to undergird what I feel led of God to promote and not tear it down." Well, of course an evangelist has an ethical responsibility to do good and not harm, and to tend to unity and not toward confusion. But the fatal flaw in his statement and the fatal flaw in strict denominational practice is that he wants the evangelist to be occupied with building a human organization and a human program instead of doing the one main thing God has called Him to do—that is, to revive saints and win souls. That is why denominational leaders are constantly carping at evangelists and trying to keep them out of Southern Baptist churches. And the same spirit has killed evangelism in most of the denominations and has that tendency among Southern Baptists also. The pastor loves the Lord and loves souls so that he would naturally be for evangelism, except that he holds this Romish doctrine which is, itself, against evangelism and is for a denominational program. So evangelism to him must take second place to the program, though he does not mean it so. It is inherent in the doctrine to which he is committed.

Let us face this high church heresy for what it is, a man-made doctrine, descended from Roman Catholicism. It plays down Christ and plays up the church. It plays down the authority of the Bible and plays up the authority of the church. It plays down the individual's accountability to God and free access to God and plays up the role of a hierarchy, and episcopacy, the part of denominational secretaries, bishops and superintendents. Let's go back to the Bible emphasis that every individual is accountable to God, must come to God for himself. No human proxy has a right to speak for a baby to have him baptized. Each one should wait until he himself has personally trusted Christ as Saviour and made the definite life-long committal of himself to Christ before he follows him in baptism as a public profession of his faith. Let every preacher feel that he is called of God and accountable directly to God for what

he preaches and where he preaches. Let every congregation feel that it is a local assembly of Christians, born-again believers, associated together after the Bible plan to follow the Bible under the leading of the Holy Spirit. Let every individual Christian daily have the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the comfort of the Holy Spirit, the teaching of the Holy Spirit as he opens the Bible, as he listens to the Spirit's leading and finds how he should live, what he should support, how he should worship. And let us remember that there is more joy in the presence of the angels of Heaven over one sinner that repents than over a whole churchful of Christians. Every one is individually responsible to win souls to Christ. And people will not come to the judgment bar of Christ in families, or in churches, but as individual souls to give an account and to be rewarded according to their works.

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